

A LITTLE BIT OF WILLYS HISTORY



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WILLITS BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

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First Edition

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Having lived in Willits for several years I have come to have come to have a great love for the city as well as its past history. Thus, when the opportunity arose I had an impulse to learn more about this city as well as to relate this information to others, thus the paper.

Willits, the third largest city in Mendocino County, is located in the center of the county and is the halfway mark between San Francisco and Eureka on U.S. Highway 101. Willits lies twenty-four miles north of Ukiah, the county seat of Mendocino County. You are only forty miles from Clear Lake and about thirty-five miles from the Pacific Ocean, at Willits. The elevation at Willits is 1,365 feet.

But now allow me to go on with this paper--a historical study of Willits.

INDIANS

Let us begin our study by first looking at the Indians of the area. The Indians of this territory did not differ greatly from the Indians of other parts of the state. Indians were very numerous in this part and generally lived near running water where they could fish. The Indians subsisted mainly upon fish, game of various sorts, wild fruits, seeds and acorns.

It is interesting to note the names of the various pomos or peoples in Indian language. To mention a few of the pomos around Willits there were the Sanels to the southeast, the Yokiahs to the far south, the Culpalaus to the immediate south, the Shebaines to the northeast. The valley in which Willits lies was called Matomkai by the Indians, which meant big valley. (1)

Indian men generally wore their hair long, taken up all around and tied up in a bunch. The ends, being loose, floated out, much resembling a feather duster. (2)

The Indians made holes in their ears and in these holes were placed bones, either leg bones of vultures or small ornamental bones of their elders. The bones were from six inches to a foot in length. Sometimes a quill or small bone was inserted through the nose. (3)

Both male and female wore a double apron in front and behind and attached to a belt which was in the form of a strap, made of milkweed. (4)

Another interesting aspect of the Indians of the area was that both men and women were tattooed, men especially so. (5)

The Indians of this area were really very peaceful, that is, there are few recollections of Indian uprisings. The Indians also were helpful to the majority of the early settlers, aiding them in settling.

EARLY SETTLERS

The first permanent white settler in this area was A. E. Sherwood. Sherwood came up the coast from San Francisco in 1853, by way of Bodega and the mouth of the Russian River. At Noyo he heard the Indians telling of beautiful valleys that were back in the interior, and was at last induced to go visit them upon the representation of the Indians. After making quite an extended tour through several of the valleys, he decided to settle here. He did not locate in Little Lake Valley, however, but went a short distance northwest to another beautiful glade which was given his name and is known today as Sherwood Valley.

In September of 1855 the three Baechtel brothers, Samuel, Hen-

ry and Martin brought a band of cattle up from Marin County and became the first permanent settlers in Little Lake Valley.

In addition to the Baechtels there were many other settlers who came during the following year. Some of them being: Thomas Carson, better known as 'Tom Punch,' Thomas Duncan, John Greenberry, Alvin Potter, Frank Shondreau, Benjamin Dougherty, James G. Rawlison, Robt. S. Rawlison, Thomas Parton, B. Arnett, Levi Felton, J. Darby and William Fulwider. All these men were single. The valley had yet to welcome a white woman. (6)

From this time on settlers were coming rapidly into this beautiful valley. The first families to come to the valley were the J. L. Broaddus, W. C. James and the Hiram Willits families. The wives of these men were the pioneer women of the valley.

The first baby born in Little Lake Valley was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. C. James in 1856 and was a boy. (7)

SETTLE, DEVELOP

The name first given to a village in the valley was Little Lake. This village was located very near the Baechtel brothers' ranch, and was on their property. There was a saloon here as early as 1859. A public hall was built in 1860, and in 1865 the first store was opened by W. C. James. There were several other small dwellings erected from time to time making quite a little village surrounded by wide spreading oak trees. (8)

In 1865 something happened to rupture business relations in the Little Lake which led to an opposition town located about one mile north. As the new town began to spring up a store was opened by Kirk Brier. J. M. Jones opened a blacksmith shop. A saloon followed and from that time on it was a thriving town. Little Lake practically dissolved as the new town became foremost. The new town was called Willitsville in honor of the land on which the town was located--Hiram Willits.

WILLITSVILLE BECOMES WILLITS IN 1888

Mr. Willits purchased the store owned by Mr. Brier in the fall of 1865 and ran the store himself. From that time on the success of the town was insured. The town soon had a good variety of business interests such as: three stores, one hotel, one restaurant, two livery stables, one blacksmith shop, two saloons, a meat market, one shoe shop, one drugstore, and one harness shop. The population of the town at this time was about 100 persons. (9)

Hiram Willits was the first postmaster in Willits with the post office being in his store.

Just north of town, Mr. Willits built a two story dwelling, the only one in the valley for a good many years. He and his good wife were first and foremost in the social life of the community from this time on.

Some of the industrial endeavors around Willitsville at this time were: a tannery, a distillery, a grist mill, and a water power mill. There were also several sawmills, but we will deal with them a little later in the paper.

The name Willitsville was changed to Willits, its present day form, when the town was incorporated in 1888. There is not much information available giving the reason for the change of names. However, one would imagine this was due mainly to the position of Hiram Willits and the authority which he commanded.

The population at this time of incorporation was around 720 inhabitants.

By 1900 Willits was a thriving town containing seven hotels, three lodging houses, seven real estate offices, two drugstores, four barbershops, two livery stables, two boot and shoe stores, two photograph galleries, four milk depots, three tailor shops, six billiard halls, three butcher shops, two express offices, two delivery agents, two halls, five restaurants, one undertaking establishment, one feed stable, seven tobacco shops, two blacksmiths, a lumber office and yard, eleven saloons, two bakeries, four plumbers, two coffee houses, two laundries, a garage, sixteen merchandising establishments, two jewelry stores, two wholesale liquor stores, one film theater, one fish market, a bottling plant and one newspaper. (10)

By 1910 the population was 1,153. A fire department had been organized consisting of about 100 members and four hose carts drawn by manpower and was considered quite efficient. However, by the time the men would arrive at the scene of a fire, either neighbors would have put it out or the firemen would have insufficient equipment to battle the blaze. Generally, a fire meant total destruction to a building or buildings.

On April 11, 1904, the Bank of Willits was incorporated under the laws of the State of California. From its beginning the bank made steady growth. In October of 1911 the bank moved from its rented quarters to its new and present home on the southeast corner of Main and Commercial Streets. The new building was provided with the latest and most modern equipment.

The financial condition of the bank at the close of the fiscal year 1913 was as follows: Resources: cash \$29,868.29; bills receivable \$316,193.52; bonds and stocks and warrants \$67,790; furniture and fixtures \$2,171.80; due from banks \$47,488.25; bank premises \$11,281.25; total \$474,793.11.

Liabilities: capital (all paid in) \$50,000; surplus \$30,000; undivided profits \$21,845.54; dividends unpaid \$750; depositors \$372,197.57; total \$474,793.11.

In 1902, March 23 to be exact, the Hotel Willits was opened. This hotel was considered a monument to the enterprise of the citizens of Willits. The hotel contained over 100 rooms, handsomely furnished and equipped with the best modern conveniences. Ladies' and gentlemen's parlors, reception rooms, banquet rooms, large dining room, rooms en suite, with private baths, hot and cold water, electric lights, first class plumbing and a perfect sewerage system were some of the many facilities available. Realizing that amusements, as well as comforts are essential, the hotel grounds were provided with tennis courts, croquet grounds, fine bowling alleys, saddle horses.

The hotel had its first class facilities open for guests the year round and at the reasonable rates of \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day and \$12 and upwards weekly. (12)

It is interesting to note some of the prices as they are listed in a souvenir menu of the hotel's coffee shop. This menu was a souvenir menu in that there was a Teachers' Institute--the year, 1936. Club breakfast, 25 cents, including apple sauce or prunes, toast or hot cakes, coffee; No. 2 30 cents, apple sauce, baked apple or prunes, french toast or waffle, or two eggs, (any style) with toast, coffee; No. 3. 40 cents, fruit in season or cereal, ham or bacon and eggs and toast or hot cakes, coffee.

Rib steak, 40¢; Sirloin Steak, 60¢; Lamb Chops, 50¢; Fried

ham sandwich 20¢; hamburger 15¢; Denver sandwich 30¢; cold ham 15¢; ham and egg 25¢. Coffee 5¢; coffee per pot 10¢; glass of half cream 20¢. (13)

Among the many stories, tales and legends that come down through the years I wish to relate a few of the more interesting ones to you.

On one occasion the citizens of Willitsville banded together to stop a group who had been robbing smokehouses, robbing horses, and other petty larcenies. On September 4, 1879, a local "601" was organized and three arrests were made. On this day the trio were arrested and placed in charge of an officer for safe keeping until the next day. During the night the "Regulators" arrived armed and masked, and relieved the guard of his duty. The three victims were taken to a bridge just north of town and hung from the side rails. When found in the morning they had been dead for several hours.

Following one of the Methodist Churches' camp meetings in 1867 some of the young folk got up a dancing party. Two young men who had been active in the camp meeting were the leading spirits there. Not satisfied with their dancing, apparently, they concluded to turn their dancing into religious mockery. Some crackers and water were procured and a mock sacrament was had after which, placing a violin case in the center of the room in imitation of a coffin, they proceeded to hold a mock funeral. One of the young men preached and the other led in prayer. The moral sensibility of the whole community was shocked by the conduct of the youth.

On another occasion a stranger who had just arrived in Willits asked a young man if the community was a healthy place in which to live. The healthiest place in the world, replied the young man. People live longer in Willits than any other place.

"When I first came to Willits," said the young man, "I took a walk way out in the mountains and after walking several miles I came to an old run-down farm. An old man with flowing white hair and beard was standing outside the gate leaning on the fence crying like a baby. I walked up to the old man and asked him what his trouble was. The old man said he had just received a whipping. Why, I asked? How old are you?"

"I am only 97," replied the old man.

"Well, who gave you the licking?" asked the young man.

"My father," replied the man.

"And what did he whip you for?" inquired the young man.

"For throwing rocks at my grandfather," said the old man.

"That," said the young man to the stranger, "is all the proof I need to know that Willits is a healthy place to live."

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Every community needs religion and what it has to offer the people. Willits was no exception at this point.

In May, 1878, the Willitsville Congregational Church was organized by the Rev. A. O. Ross. This church was the only one of that denomination in Mendocino Co. Services were held in the schoolhouse for many years.

In September of 1885 the Baptist Church was dedicated. The land upon which the church was built was donated by Hiram Willits.

The Methodist Church history seems to have started around 1859 when Rev. W. B. Davis, a circuit preacher, was appointed to Little Lake. Meetings were held once every four weeks, but in

1860, J. L. Broaddus, one of the early settlers, was licensed to preach and did so on the alternate meeting times.

With the coming of the Blosser family the infant church was greatly strengthened. Beginning in 1861 preaching services were held once every two weeks instead of every four weeks.

In 1867 the first camp meeting was held in the valley and apparently it was a success. As the record has it, those who left the camp meeting were "full of faith and zeal."

From this time and for several years there seemed to be quite a turnover of pastors and supply preachers. In 1890 a bell was placed in the church belfry at an expense of nearly \$140. In 1891 work was begun on a new parsonage and at the close of the year there was a debt of \$300 and the parsonage remained unfinished.

In 1909 the Methodists dedicated their new church, the same building which was in use until recently when a new church replaced it.

EDUCATION

The schools in the valley developed along with the town. In Little Lake Valley there were several schools. The school census in the county gives the following enrollment for three schools in the year 1880: Little Lake, 45 girls, 40 boys; Sawyers School, 29 girls, 37 boys; Willitsville, 41 girls, 43 boys; total, 115 girls, 120 boys.

The first school in Little Lake Valley was Sawyers School, a one-room schoolhouse. Its only instructor was William Munroe. The teachers in those days were nearly always men and were usually very severe disciplinarians.

An interesting personal account was given by the late Mrs. Sarah Tuck of Willits. Mrs. Tuck was the granddaughter of W. C. James and the daughter of William Fulwider. Prior to her recent death, Mrs. Tuck was the oldest living student of the old Sawyers School. She stated she was in mortal fear of the teacher. The worst punishment she could recall was barefoot boys dancing on the stove lid as the stove was being heated. Mrs. Tuck said when she first started school there were about 85 pupils.

FRATERNAL GROUPS

There seem to have been numerous secret societies as well as the customary social groups established at one time or another in the town. A brief sketch of them follows:

Little Lake Lodge No. 277 of the IOOF was organized August 8, 1878 with thirteen charter members. The lodge built its own hall, a two-story building, via a joint stock company for around \$2,500.

Willitsville Lodge No. 259 of the Independent Order of Good Templars was established September 4, 1878, with seventeen charter members.

Hope Lodge No. 101 of the Ancient Order of United Workmen was organized May 19, 1879 with eighteen charter members. The lodge later disbanded and surrendered its charter on June 24, 1880.

Lagunita Rebekah Lodge No. 248 was instituted April 13, 1900.

Willits Lodge No. 365, F&AM was instituted on January 3, 1905.

Woodmen of the World, No. 444 was instituted May 29, 1903.

Willits Grove No. 158, Druids, was organized July 19, 1903.

Knights of Pythias, No. 19, was established January 12, 1904.

Willits Aerie No. 826, was instituted on November 15, 1904.

Fraternal Brotherhood No. 494 was organized July 26, 1906.

Women of Woodcraft, Golden West Circle, No. 686 was established January 14, 1908.

Willits Lodge 862, Loyal Order of Moose was instituted in January of 1911. (13)

EARLY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Willits being a town of the West naturally had many celebrations. I would like to give here a brief account of some of these events.

The first celebration of the National holiday took place in 1859. The site of this affair was near the Baechtel brothers ranch. The entire celebration was in the hands of a committee consisting of Margaret Upp, Susan Upp, Margaret Willits, and William Munroe. The event started by Henry Baechtel reading the Declaration of Independence. Other exercises were had too, but mainly this was a time for friendly talking and fellowship together as well as eating together. (14)

In september of 1879 the first agricultural fair was held in Willits, sponsored by the County Agricultural Association. This fair was a success and fairs were held again in 1881, 1882, 1883 and 1885. These fairs would include horse racing, cattle shows and displays of farm produce. For several years the fairs were eliminated and then again in 1905 and 1912 they were resumed.

In skipping by the calendar for a few years to 1926, I would like to tell the story of a memorable event I think worthy of mentioning. The story follows:

Thirty-one years ago the Willits City Development Association, preceded the Chamber of Commerce, decided the community was in need of a hospital and they started to do something about it.

Three local men were asked to dream up a community activity from which money could be made to devote toward a hospital project. Willits is still enjoying the Frontier Days dream which has come to be known as a tradition rather than a project and has developed into one of the biggest celebrations in the western show circuit.

It all took place in 1926 when Dr. Raymond Babcock, Fred Foord, and Frank Whitney were handed the chore of staging a show for city betterment. The trio set about organizing a home show, for home folk and a home project.

They engineered the initial show a year later through the local American Legion Post and from records available the event was really an affair, if not overly successful financially.

Workmen and supporters of the show constructed the first grandstand, arena and track on the site where the present grounds are. Businessmen, not many here at the time, gave the group \$2,200 with which to get started.

After the show was established the late Charles S. Howard, owner of Ridgewood Ranch, the home of the famed horse Seabiscuit, decided to build a hospital in memory of a son, Frank, who was fatally hurt in a car accident and died because there was no hospital within a short distance. Relieved of the job of constructing the hospital, the Frontier Days group devoted the money they made from the first shows to buying equipment for the hospital. Later the money derived from the show was directed into other civic improvements.

The American Legion operated the rapidly growing event until 1932 when it was turned over to the Willits Fire Department. Under the new sponsors the celebration continued to thrive until in 1949 the show had become a mammoth production. The show had also gained prestige through the years with its affiliation with the International Rodeo Association and the Rodeo Association of America. The show is still affiliated with the organizations.

As the show enlarged and became of greater prominence in the rodeo world, it began to lure spectators from all over the county and state. In recent years thousands of out-of-town western show fans join the local throng to view the spectacle of western color, thrills, and excitement.

The fire department operated the show, as has been mentioned, until 1949 when they abandoned it due to the increasing amount of work demanded of them to put on a show of this nature, along with their regular duties.

The loss of a producer called for immediate action if the celebrated Redwood Empire presentation was to be continued, and action there was almost overnight.

Several public spirited citizens, including the same Dr. Babcock, who aided in the founding of the show, snapped up the reins and went to work.

A board of directors was formed and incorporation of the event was started. With the show less than a month away, plans were under way for a celebration as brilliant as any ever staged in the Redwood Empire. Many of the same group of directors guide the destiny of the show today.

TRANSPORTATION

The history of the various means of transportation into the valley is most interesting.

Until the coming of the railroad, in 1900, the valley was so isolated by distance and bad roads that little progress could be made.

The way by which the early settlers came into the valley was nothing but a trail from Sonoma County following the Russian River, then into Walker Valley and from there into Little Lake Valley. This route was difficult because it was rather mountainous and a divide had to be crossed to get into Little Lake Valley. After awhile somewhat better trails or roads were made and these accommodated the travel much better.

Soon the stage was running its route north to Eureka and west to Fort Bragg on the coast. There were numerous hardships encountered and the stages were held up frequently. The first record of a holdup is June 14, 1882. (15)

The Wells Fargo stages were toyed with by Black Bart, more of whom will be told later.

On November 15, 1901 the Northwestern Railroad reached Willits and a huge celebration was held in honor of the occasion. A flagpole 100 feet high was erected to aid in the celebrating.

The railroad had come to Willits via Cloverdale and Ukiah. This was a boom to the community as now Willits had a means of rapid transportation to the south. With the coming of the railroad came additional people and businesses which made quite an upsurge in the community.

Soon there was talk of the laying of tracks northward toward Eureka. However, complications set in and this did not material-

ize. The Northwestern Railroad was already mortgaged to the amount of \$35,000,000.00, and the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe were talking of taking over joint ownership of the railroad. Time passed and they did take over and a short line was built to Sherwood, some ten miles to the northwest.

The Southern Pacific soon decided to orphan the Sherwood extension and build down Outlet Creek from Willits to the main Eel River. Santa Fe engineers preferred the original line from Sherwood. The final decision was made by a panel of the high powered railway men, and the Southern Pacific's wishes were granted. From this time on the railroad was called the Northwestern Pacific.

Work was started at Willits in October of 1907 to extend the railroad to Eureka, but things soon ground to a halt three months later along with most of the nation's activities in the panic of 1907. Soon, however, the construction was resumed and completed a few years later. (16)

As I mentioned before, the coming of the railroad to Willits caused a boom in business. The railroad made the tourist trade very popular as now people from the City could come northward for a short holiday or vacation and where would they find a better place to go than to the beautiful Redwood Empire and Willits.

I would like to quote a few lines from the yearly vacation book put out by the Northwestern Pacific Railroad. This book is entitled "Vacation 1908."

Oak Farm is located one mile from Willits and will meet guests. Oak Farm is a quiet country home just outside the town limits, extending back to the mountains. Mountain spring water is piped to the house. There is also a well of good cold water. Farm is a short distance from the Redwoods, there is plenty of shade, good fishing and hunting. Oak Farm is open for guests from May till November. Can accommodate eight. Prices: Adults, \$1.25 per day, \$8.00 per week; children under 12 years, half rates; special rates for families. Address David L. Sawyers, Willits, California for further information or reservations. (17)

Four miles east of Willits lies Rancho Lagunita. The ranch will meet guests at the train depot if notified. Hunting and fishing both a specialty in the area. Mineral springs and swimming tanks available. There is an orchard with all kinds of fruit trees for the guests taking. Guides can be obtained at the ranch. Saddle horses, carriages, camping outfits, tents all available. There is a long distance telephone on the ranch. The ranch is open for guests all the year round. About twenty guests can be accommodated. Rates, adults, \$8.00 per week, special rates to families. Address J. B. Campbell & Son, Rancho Lagunita, Willits, California. (18)

Another railroad, possibly more interesting than the Northwestern Pacific is the California Western. This railroad must be considered one of the shortest, if not the shortest railroad in existence.

The California Western opened in 1912 and operates between Willits and Fort Bragg. It is one of the most scenic railroads of the West, traversing a country of unusual beauty and enchantment.

Throughout its 40 mile length, the route twists and turns with serpentine likeness. The longest tangent is less than one mile in length, acquiring the distinction of being one of the most crooked railroads of its class in the world.

Between Shake City and Summit, an air-line distance of only one and a half miles, the line loops eight and a half miles in

bowknot turns and heavy grades and in places it curves directly above the track below.

Originally built with one hundred and fifteen bridges and trestles and two tunnels, the railroad through relocation and re-alignment of its tracks and right-of-way has reduced this number to 44 bridges and trestles, retaining the two tunnels.

The trip takes two hours and is a continuous panorama of mountain, forest and river. The tracks cross and recross the Noyo River, winding in and out among the redwoods, revealing to the passenger a scene of beauty long to be remembered.

Passengers ride in diesel-powered motor cars referred to as "The Skunk" by patrons of the line. Personalized service is a specialty with "The Skunk," the conductor being much more than the ordinary conductor, since he acts as brakeman, ticket seller, baggageman, expressman and general handyman as well as conductor.

One really has to ride this unusual train in order to fully appreciate its significance and uniqueness.

LUMBERING

The first approach to lumbering was made in 1861 when Hiram T. Hatch built a sawmill. The mill was run by water power and its capacity was around 10,000 board feet of lumber per day.

The Blosser brothers built one of the early sawmills in the valley and their mill was run by steam. They sold out to H. L. Norton in 1878. This mill had a capacity of near 20,000 feet per day. (19)

There were several other small mills, but the turn of the century found the large mill coming into existence. The first mill of this type was the Northwestern Redwood Company beginning in 1901, anticipating the coming of the railroad. This mill burned in 1902, but was apparently well insured as it was soon rebuilt and on improved lines. In 1909 the mill invoiced 10,000,000 feet of lumber. (20) The mill was considered one of the leading lumber producing mills of the entire west.

In 1903, another large mill was incorporated, that being the Irvine and Muir Lumber Co. This mill averaged between four and six million feet of lumber yearly.

There is no question that lumbering helped Willits grow financially as well as physically.

AGRICULTURE

The soil of the valley is very fertile and productive. The main type of soil is sandy loam of varying degrees of lightness. In some places there is a clay sub-soil.

The land value before the coming of the railroad was low, but following the railroad good land was increasingly valuable.

Prior to lumbering, farming was the principal occupation in the valley. Many farms as well as ranches were scattered about the valley.

Mainly cattle and sheep were raised in the line of stock, but as for produce, nearly all of the known fruits and vegetables thrived.

Some interesting accounts of the yields of the farmers are: twenty-one tons of potatoes from three acres was one yield by Ole Simonson. The 1911 quotation was three cents a pound. Simonson also had 11 pear trees, five of which had fruit. These trees pro-

duced two tons of fruit. Individual trees gave nearly 500 pounds.

Five acres of Bartlett pears owned by George Mast produced 22 tons of fruit. Ten acres of apples in 1910 paid A. J. Muir \$50 an acre. George Youde, in 1910, netted \$600 from two acres of logan and blackberries. Strawberries, 2½ acres, gave J. Williams \$1,200 in a single season (21)

The raising of chickens was a comparatively new field of endeavor that was found to be rewarding to many farms. Hens by the thousands could be raised on an acre, the climate being very favorable. Costs were considered to be \$1.50 a year to feed a hen and \$2 a hen a year was common profit. Eggs were quoted at 30¢ a dozen. (22)

One of the more successful dairies in the valley was run by E. F. DeCamp. In one year he produced 10,862 pounds of butter, and in 1909 he installed a 150 pound churn in his creamery. (23)

There were a few other creameries in the valley, but none that compared to this.

The markets in Willits as well as other towns in Mendocino Co. were cash markets in the early days. That is, the farmer was in close touch with the markets of the state and county, but had within the county a field that was not yet supplied by home production. The following examples will explain this.

Consuming more than it raised, Willits, for instance, was compelled to import most of its supplies. The grower sold to the Willits merchant at San Francisco prices, plus freight. Suppose he sold potatoes. If they were \$1.50 in San Francisco, he got \$1.50, plus 35cents, freight to the city. If he sold in the city, he would pay that freight, besides the commission and other expenses. Therefore, the home market paid approximately two times as much as the city market. Furthermore, the home market gave a good selling medium at all seasons of the year. (24)

The Mendocino County Agriculture Ass'n. was established at Willitsville in 1878. The grounds contained about 20 acres enclosed by a board fence with an excellent race track, an amphitheater, stock shed and stables.

The society set forth four main objectives and they were:

1. To hold an annual fair and cattle show.
2. To encourage the cultivation of the soil and the general development of all resources of the county.
3. To foster every branch of mechanical and household arts, calculated to increase the happiness of home life.
4. To extend and facilitate the various branches of mining and milling. (25)

Previous mention has already been made of the fairs which the association put on, so further mention will not be made.

CLIMATE

The climate of this section of the county is unexcelled. Willits lies close enough to the coast to benefit from the ocean breezes that bring cool air during the hot summers. Summers are usually very dry, while winter brings much rainfall and some cold weather, and occasionally snow.

An idea of the rain that falls in Willits is given in the following table: January, 11.03; February, 8.47; March, 7.27; April, 4.36; May, 2.15; June, .70; July, .06; August, .01; September, .92; October, 2.74; November, 6.77; December, 10.18; seasonal,

DISASTERS

In the course of history some disastrous events are inevitable, and Willits, therefore, had its share.

On May 5, 1881, an earthquake shook the town, but no harmful effects were left. In February of 1887, two earthquakes were felt in successive days, but again no real damage resulted.

In 1898 Willits was devastated by fire. Nearly all of the east side of Main Street, including the Odd Fellows two-story hall was burned. The estimated loss in the fire was held at \$30,000. (27)

On June 12, 1901, fire again destroyed most of the business section of the town. Fourteen buildings were lost in the blaze leaving the town almost to start over again. This fire was believed to have started in one of the livery stables.

The great earthquake of 1906 had disastrous effects upon Willits also, as it lies on the San Andreas fault. Many of the buildings in Willits were completely demolished, especially any brick buildings of which there were several. The Buckner Hotel, a two-story brick building, was one of the largest buildings to be destroyed. Fortunately, there were no lives lost in this terrible affair, however, property damage was extremely high.

BLACK BART EPISODES

More intriguing than Sherlock Holmes is the story of Black Bart, who, between the years of 1875 and 1883, became a synonym for elusiveness and mystery. During that time he robbed 27 stages, traveling on foot for thousands of miles through very rough mountainous country from the Sierra to Coast Ranges, Calaveras, Sierra, Plumas, Yuba, Butte, Shasta, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Trinity counties. All knew the terror of this lone highwayman in the linen duster and mask, who had eluded years of diligent search on the part of detectives. His endurance seemed uncanny, for, although he always traveled on foot, he was known to have robbed two coaches 60 miles apart in a rough mountain region within 24 hours. (28)

Black Bart was never vicious and seemed adverse to taking a human life. He was immaculate in dress and extremely polite, a man of refinement and education. Because he was such a respectable, quiet, delicate-looking individual, he lived in San Francisco for years under the very eyes of detectives without once being suspected. He even frequented the favorite restaurants of the police headquarter staff. Occasionally he ate at the same table with the officers. Black Bart seemed to thoroughly enjoy his own cleverness and notoriety, and a decided sense of humor often expressed itself in facetious rhymes left on empty mail or express boxes for the baffled officers to read. Some of his verses follow:

I rob the rich to feed the poor,
which hardly is a sin.
A widow ne'er knocked at my door,
but what I let her in.
So blame me not for what I've done,
I don't deserve your curses,
And if for any cause I'm hung,
Let it be for my verses. (29)

Here I lay me down to sleep,
to wait the coming morrow,
Perhaps success, perhaps defeat
and everlasting sorrow.
Yet come what will I'll try it,
my condition can't be worse,
And if there's money in that stage,
'tis money in my purse. (30)

Usually it was Bart's custom to come to the scene of his robberies on foot, carrying a blanket roll. In the roll would be a varied assortment of items, including a pair of field glasses, two pairs of detachable cuffs, and a small round derby hat. Also somewhere would be a shotgun, a flour sack, provided with eye holes, another sack for the booty and two extra pairs of clean cuffs, a pair of overalls, a five pound wedge, a knife to slit the mail sacks, a sledge hammer, a large crow bar, a miner's gad, drill and chisel, a pick and an axe. (31)

Black Bart is believed to have been around Willits on several occasions during his reign as a stage robber.

On one occasion when the Ukiah-Willits stage was held up, supposedly by Black Bart, the sheriff could not get anyone brave enough to accompany him. Finally he got a young man, the same man that was talked of earlier, Starkey to go with him. This young man had boasted to his friends that he would not be afraid to face Black Bart, so he and the sheriff rode away to capture the robber. On their way to the scene of the robbery someone began shooting at them. They both jumped from their horses and ran for shelter. After dodging from tree to tree, on their way toward where the shots came from, the sheriff found that he was by himself. Fearing that young Starkey had been shot he found his way back to the horses where they were still standing. After searching for his companion for sometime, the sheriff gave up and rode back to Willits. Arriving in town he saw a large crowd gathered in the middle of the street and in the middle of the crowd was Starkey, telling about the big fight he and the sheriff had had with the bandit. The sheriff allowed Starkey to talk for awhile before letting him know he was around. Finally the sheriff said to Starkey, "What made you run, I thought you were a brave man?" Starkey, surprised to see the sheriff had a ready answer for him though--replying, "Sheriff, I ran because I couldn't fly." (32)

On the old highway (U.S. 101 South) there is a huge boulder known as the Black Bart Rock. This spot was once the hiding place of the bandit and is marked by a placard telling people the historical story.

The mystery of Black Bart's identity was finally unraveled through the combined efforts of Sheriff Thorne of San Andreas and H. B. Hume, special agent of the Wells Fargo Company, whose iron bound boxes were so frequently rifled in transit. The bandit's propensity for cleanliness finally proved his undoing, for on November 3, 1883, at Bear Mountain between Milton and Murphy's in Calaveras County, not far from the scene of the first robbery of his career, he dropped a handkerchief while he was busily engaged in opening an express box containing \$400 in coin. The mark "F.X.O.7" on this piece of linen led Sheriff Thorne after a most careful search to a laundry on Bush Street in San Francisco to which the fastidious Black Bart had for years carried his little bundle. He had lived all that time under the name of Charles C. Bolton, ostensibly a mining man, who made periodic trips to the

mines. He was lodged in jail at San Andreas and was shortly sentenced to San Quentin, where he entered upon his term November 21, 1883, and was released January 23, 1888. His whereabouts after that date are unknown. (33)

MODERN DAY WILLITS

Today Willits is a city of about 3,500 population, noted for its friendly and neighborly atmosphere.

At the time Frontier Days started the city was almost entirely an agricultural town with practically no industry. Hay and grain were the principal crops raised in Little Lake Valley, while on the ranges surrounding the city thousands of cattle and sheep were raised. Mendocino County wools were noted in the eastern markets for their high quality.

While the tillable area has not increased the number of acres now under cultivation has increased due to the modern agricultural practices. With the advent of the Willits Soil Conservation District, farmers have been induced to plant permanent pastures to prevent soil erosion and help in the raising of their stock. While there has been some marked advance in Willits as an agricultural community the outstanding expansion of the city has been along the industrial line.

The industrial growth of Willits started shortly after Pearl Harbor. With the huge expansion of all lines of industry to meet war time demands, lumber became one of the most sought after commodities. By this time new dirt moving machinery had come into the market and logging roads were built into the hills to places which was once been thought inaccessible. The automotive industry had developed the heavy logging trucks so familiar today and stands of timber in almost forgotten areas were soon hearing the whine of the chain saw and the cry of 'timber' was being heard in parts of the country where the only sounds previously known had been the lowing of cattle, the bleat of lambs and the jargon of wildlife.

Today Willits has inside the city limits, six sawmills, some of which are equipped with the very finest in lumber machinery and equipment. In addition there are two lumber manufacturing plants and one plywood manufacturing firm. Added to these are numerous logging and allied lumber industries.

The shortage of houses which has tended to delay the development of Willits has been overcome to some extent with new housing projects which has provided hundreds of new homes for residents. Private construction is also long under way and is continuing on a large scale.

Fishing and hunting are plentiful around Willits. The area is in the center of Mendocino County which annually has been registered at the top for giving up more deer to hunters than any other county in the state. Salmon and steelhead run in the creeks and rivers and the proximity of the city to the coast provides easy access to fine ocean fishing.

Willits has plenty of modern stores and is well equipped with hospital facilities in the Howard Memorial Hospital with the most modern equipment, a staff of extremely competent surgeons, doctors and nurses with fine laboratory facilities.

The spiritual needs of Willits are well cared for in churches of the different denominations and there are ample opportunities for membership in the various service, secret, and fraternal organizations.

In conclusion, I too must agree with the Chamber of Commerce, when they say, "You'll find it pleasant, modern living to...stay, grow with us in Willits."

From The Willits News
August- October 1958
By John Weeks, Willits, CA.

BIOGRAPHIES

GORDON BAECHTEL. An influential representative of an honored old pioneer family of Mendocino county, Gordon Baechtel was born at the Baechtel ranch in Little Lake township April 2, 1864 and passed the years of youth at the homestead. Fair educational advantages were given him and he is a graduate, class of 1882, of the Heald's Business College in San Francisco. On the completion of his commercial course he became a bookkeeper under William Heeser in the Bank of Mendocino. A year later he went to San Rafael, Marin county and for seven years continued as a clerk in the grocery house of C. Grosjean. Returning to Willits during 1890, he formed a partnership with his father, uncle and brother under the title of the Standard Commercial Company, the members of the firm being L. S. Mart, Gordon and William H. Baechtel, who developed a large general mercantile enterprise on Main Street. The entire time of the two brothers was given to the store until 1896, when it was sold to Irvine & Muir, and by them it has been continued ever since on the same site. Although the commercial company dissolved, the three brothers continued in partnership and have since engaged in real estate, ranching and stock-raising enterprises. During the long period of their connection they have met with their share of hardships and losses, but in the main have found the raising of stock a profitable business, and their judgment of animals from the beef standpoint is said to be seldom at fault. From 1898 to 1900, when his two brothers, William H. and Luther S., were in Alaska, Gordon Baechtel engaged with M. E. Nicholson in buying, selling and trading cattle, sheep and hogs, but with the return of the brothers a ranch in Eden valley was leased for five years and stocked with cattle of good grades. At the end of three years the lease and stock were sold to William G. Henshaw, of Oakland, and the brothers have since rented to others their several ranch properties. From 1906 to 1908 the three brothers with A. J. Fairbanks conducted a meat market in Willits under the title of the Willits Meat Company, while associated in partnership in other enterprises. For two years their specialty was the shipping of piling to San Francisco, but since 1908 they have given their entire time to road building. For this purpose they keep about sixty head of mules and horses and a full equipment, including steam shovel and traction engine. Important contracts have been filled by them and in every instance with efficiency and general satisfaction. When the Utah Construction Company had entered into large contracts with the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company for track work in Mendocino county they retained Messrs. Baechtel and Fairbanks to complete two contracts for two and one-half miles of heavy work. Another contract was for the building of eight miles of road, including several bridges, between Longvale and Long Valley. During 1913 seven miles were completed on the state highway from Willits to Walker valley, and at this writing (1914) they are filling a contract for six miles of state highway in

Humboldt county. Besides his other enterprises Mr. Baechtel has been a notary public since 1888 and is a stockholder in the Bank of Willits, on whose first board of directors he served for a number of years. Educational interests have been rightly valued by him. In addition to giving efficient service as a member of the board of trustees of the Willits school district for a number of years, since 1910 he has served as a high school trustee. Active in local Republican politics, he was a member of the county central committee for some years and city trustee of Willits for five years, being chairman of the board during part of this time. While acting as trustee one sewer was completed in 1908 and papers of incorporation for the old town, embracing an area of about twelve miles square, were relinquished, the town being then incorporated in its present size and status. The residence which Mr. Baechtel erected on Wood street, Willits, is presided over by his wife, whom he married in Oakland and who was Miss Eleanor H. Roache, a native of Ireland. Three children comprised their family. Two daughters are living, namely, Lenore M., wife of Jesse L. Fairbanks of Willits, and Elsie K., a graduate of the class of 1914, San Jose State Normal School.

LUTHER SHELBY BAECHTEL. No name is more closely interwoven with the early development of Little Lake valley than that of Baechtel, for the two brothers, Samuel and Harry Baechtel, were the first settlers in this portion of Mendocino county, having brought in a bunch of cattle for pasturage on the wide and excellent range and finding conditions so promising that permanent settlement followed as a matter of course. Further mention of the family appears on another page in the sketch of Samuel Baechtel, father of Luther Shelby Baechtel, the latter the youngest child and born at the old Baechtel homestead January 29, 1872. During his boyhood educational advantages were far inferior to those of the present day, but through attendance upon the school in the Sawyer district he laid the foundation of an education that habits of reading and close observation have made broad and liberal. He had the further advantage of a complete course of study in the Lytton Springs College, Sonoma county, from which he was graduated with the degree of B.S. in 1890, at the age of eighteen years. He then entered the Willits store of the Standard Commercial Company, whose owners were members of the Baechtel family and whose interests he promoted through six years of work as office man and bookkeeper, and when the business was sold to Irvine & Muir in 1896 he devoted his time to settling the affairs of the retiring company. Meanwhile gold had been discovered in the Klondike, and a love of adventure, as well as the hope of finding some profitable mining claim for himself, led Mr. Baechtel to Alaska in the spring of 1898. Accompanied by a brother, William, he sailed from San Francisco to Dyea and thence traveled with pack-horses over the Chilkoot Pass to the Klondike region. During the course of the tedious journey a disastrous slide occurred while he was in camp, and he took part in recovering the bodies of the men from the snow-slide. When the Yukon river was reached a boat was constructed of lumber which they whipsawed themselves, and in this the party proceeded as far as the mouth of the Stewart river, where he and seven other gold-seekers spent the summer in prospecting without results, going as far as three hundred miles up the Stewart river toward the Rocky mountains. The approach of winter weather forced him to go into winter camp at Dawson. In the spring he changed the scene of operations to a branch of the Hunker creek, but with little

better luck than before. In the fall of 1899 he sailed down the Yukon and at St. Michaels secured passage on a steamer bound for Seattle. In 1900, with his brothers, Gordon and William, he formed the firm of Baechtel Bros., and embarked in the stock business in Eden Valley, Mendocino county, where for nearly three years cattle and horses were kept on the range. In 1903 the business was sold to W. G. Henshaw. Since then Mr. Baechtel has engaged in the subdividing of lands and the sale of real estate, but also continues in ranching and raising stock with his brothers, owning one ranch in Round valley with them as partners and two ranches in Little Lake valley. In addition, since January, 1904, he has had charge of the bookkeeping department of the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company. From the organization of the Bank of Willits he has been interested as a stockholder. On a hill overlooking Willits and Little Lake valley stands the comfortable residence erected by Mr. Baechtel and presided over by his hospitable wife. May 24, 1903, he married Miss Turberg Simonson, daughter of Ole Simonson, represented on another page of this volume and widely honored as a pioneer of Mendocino county. Mrs. Baechtel was born and reared in Willits and taught school prior to her marriage. Their family numbers five children, namely: Marjorie Turberg, Richard Samuel, Harriet Luthera, Maxine and William Edwin. In politics Mr. Baechtel is a Republican of the progressive type. Devotion to civic affairs appears in his efficient service as a member of the board of trustees of the town, over which he presided as chairman during two years, and has since been equally active in other capacities. Tactful as trustee, he has endeavored to create and promote a community spirit of mutual helpfulness and to advance progressive measures which his business experience convinces him would be of advantage to the general welfare.

MARTIN BAECHTEL

MARTIN BAECHTEL. Was born in Washington county, Maryland, May 18, 1832, being of Swiss and French stock. He received his early education at the common schools and academy, and at seventeen years of age was sent to Marshall College, at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, which was, shortly after his going there, moved to Lancaster City, Lancaster county of that State, and at that place he received his diploma in August, 1853. After sojourning for a few months at his home, he, in January, 1854, sailed from New York City to California, arriving in San Francisco February 2d of that year. He immediately joined his brothers in Marin county, where he remained for six months, when he went to San Francisco and embarked in the hotel business, which he continued for one year. He then returned to Marin county, and in August, 1855, in connection with his brothers, drove cattle to Mendocino county and located where he now resides. In 1860 Mr. Baechtel was elected to the Assembly, which position he filled one year, he being the second representative of Mendocino county. Again, in 1865, he filled the office of County Supervisor for one term. He was also the first magistrate in Little Lake valley before it was known as Mendocino county, but he did not serve. In the spring of 1872 was appointed Commissioner by the Board of Supervisors, to represent Mendocino county in establishing the boundary lines between Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity and Klamath counties. His associates were Messers. Lewis of Humboldt, Martin of Klamath, and Finnin of Trinity. The business was completed in August of the same year. He is now ser-

ing his fifth term as Notary Public. He married, October 9, 1861, Esther Newman Hopkins, a native of Quincy, Illinois, born January 31, 1838, and by this union they have two children, Minnie W. born January 19, 1863 and Harry L., born August 17, 1869.

SAMUEL S. BAECHTEL. The oldest settler of Little Lake valley has witnessed many changes since first he came to Mendocino county. Then all was wild and unimproved, cattle could range for miles in any direction unmolested, settlers were few in any portion of the county, and schools and churches always in the vanguard of a progressive civilization, had not yet entered upon their special labor of mental and spiritual development. Since his birth occurred near Hagerstown, Washington county, Md., September 26, 1826, the United States has entered upon a history of expansion and progress undreamed of in his childhood. The Oregon territory has been annexed in his lifetime, Texas has been added to the stars in the flag, slavery has been abolished, the telegraph, cable, wireless and telephone have conquered distance, the first steamship sailed across the Atlantic and the first railroad train brought into the new west its possibilities of commerce and trade. He has lived to a serene old age, in the full possession of his faculties, and at his comfortable cottage in Willits is enjoying the peace and contentment rightfully belonging to the closing years of a well-spent existence. His parents, Samuel and Fannie (Snively) Baechtel, natives respectively of Washington county, Md., and Franklin county, Pa., were farmers and he passed his early life upon a Maryland farm. Following the tide of emigration toward the west in 1844 he became a pioneer of Clark county, Mo. The winter of 1845-6 he spent in Stark county, Ohio, returning to Maryland during the spring of 1846 and continuing there as a farmer until news came concerning the discovery of gold in California. That event changed the entire current of his life and caused him to identify his future with the frontier coast country. The Baltimore and Frederick Mining and Trading Company, in which Samuel S. and his brother Harry Baechtel became partners, was organized in the spring of 1840 for the purpose of speculation in California. The capital stock of \$30,000 was raised by a contribution of \$1,000 from each of the thirty members, who with their equipment and funds came west via Panama. Immediately after their arrival they bought a sawmill and erected it in Marin county at a place still known as Baltimore Gulch, near what is now Larkspur. However, so much lumber was shipped in that the business proved unprofitable and the majority of the members became dissatisfied, soon giving up the work to try their fortunes in the mines. Two remained besides the Baechtel brothers and in the end the four succeeded in selling the mill for \$14,000. During 1851 the brothers removed to Lagunitas, Marin county, and spent a year in the stock business, afterward going to Bolinas in the same county and resuming the same business. On the organization of Marin county in 1851 Samuel S. Baechtel was honored by being elected the first sheriff and he served in the office for eight months. During 1853 he returned to the old home near Baltimore, where he remained for ten months. In a search for stock range he and his brother accidentally came into Little Lake valley in 1855. The country pleased him. The range was in excellent condition. The drove of two hundred and fifty head of cattle flourished. It was not until 1870 that the country became settled up to such an extent as to force him to dispose of his cattle and he then took up the sheep industry. Little by little his holdings

increased and when in 1893 he and his brother divided their possessions and dissolved their partnership, each was left with an excellent sum to represent returns from their years of labor. For some years after coming to Mendocino county Mr. Baechtel remained a bachelor. His marriage took place October 7, 1861, and united him with Miss Harriet E. Henry, who was born in Illinois and is a daughter of the late William Henry, a pioneer of this county. Of their union four children were born, namely: Gordon, a general contractor, also a member of the firm of Baechtel Bros., at Willits; William H., cashier of the Bank of Willits; Lizzie M., who cares for her parents in their advancing years; and Luther S. head bookkeeper for the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company. For some years the family held mercantile interests in Willits and operated a concern known as Standard Commercial Company, but this was eventually sold, and since then the father has been retired from business and agricultural enterprises. He still keeps posted in politics and votes the Republican ticket with the same fidelity displayed during the earlier history of that political organization. No one is more interested in the progress of the county than this honored pioneer who always has given of his best to movements for the permanent benefit of the people.

BELIO & ALLUE. The proprietors of the Willits Steam Laundry, Florence Belio and Firmin Allue, are enterprising men and are building up a laundry business that reflects credit on the city. Since they purchased the laundry they have remodeled it and put in new and modern machinery, so they are equipped to do the work by the latest and most approved process. Both are thorough going and enterprising, and their business is increasing in a deserving measure. Florence Belio, the senior member of the firm, was born at Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France in 1882, and learned the carpenter's trade in that country. In 1905 he came to San Francisco, where he was employed in a laundry until 1913, when he came to Willits to become a partner of Mr. Allue in the Willits Laundry. In Basses Pyrenees he was married to Marie Allue, who was born in that country and by this union there were born two children, Amelie and Antone. Firmin Allue was born in Pau, Basses Pyrenees, Frances, in 1890. In 1909 he came to California and at Suisun entered the employ of the steam laundry, where he learned the laundry business. Thence he went to San Francisco, where he worked at his trade until October, 1912, when he came to Willits as an employe of the steam laundry until January, 1913. It was then that he and Mr. Belio bought the business which they have continued ever since with good success.

STEPHEN K. BITTENBENDER. A member of an old Pennsylvania family and himself a native of that state, born near Berwick, October 22, 1859, Stephen K. Bittenbender is the youngest child of John Bittenbender, who born in Schuylkill county, Pa., and in his youth learned the trades of blacksmith and machinist. A genius in the difficult task of tempering steel, he was engaged for years in that capacity with the firm of Bowman & Jackson, car-builders, at Berwick. Eventually resigning and removing to Knoxville, Iowa, he successfully identified himself with both the banking and the real estate business. To his youngest son he gave the educational advantages of Carthage (Ill.) College, from which he received the degree of A. B. in 1880 and that of A. M. in 1885. After his graduation with honors as valedictorian of his class he went to

Nebraska as principal of the schools at Ponca. It was during the period of his residence at Ponca that Mr. Bittenbender became interested in the milling industry, the original experience being in flour mills, while later he became equally familiar with the lumber mills. For twelve years he had a practical and encouraging experience as manager of the Ponca flour mills, in which he bought an interest. The destruction of the mill by fire caused him a very heavy loss and wiped out the labor of more than a decade of tireless application. Forced to consider a new location, it was then that he first came to California. From 1895 to 1898 he made his home in the Santa Clara valley near Campbell, where he bought an orchard. The work of horticulture in that particular locality proved neither interesting nor profitable, so that he removed to Missouri and engaged as manager for Stough Bros., at Chicopee, having charge of the manufacture and sale of lumber for the firm. When all of their holdings had been sawed, and having negotiated for a sale of the remaining property, he engaged as manager for the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company at the same place, where he continued for three and one-half years. Meanwhile he still owned the orchard in the Santa Clara valley and on leaving Missouri he brought his family back to California, but shortly left the vicinity of San Jose for Mendocino county in 1901 and became an employe of the Northwestern Redwood Company at Willits. In 1907 he became mill superintendent for the company at Northwestern, a position he has filled ever since. For many years he had been interested in the study of law during his leisure hours, and in June, 1903, successfully passed a bar examination and was admitted to practice in all the state courts. While he has not practiced the profession, he has found a knowledge of the law most helpful to him in general business affairs. During the period of the attendance of Mr. Bittenbender at the college in Illinois he formed the acquaintance of a popular young college student, Miss Elizabeth Stough, of Ponca, Neb. Their marriage was solemnized in Ponca a few years after they had completed their collegiate education. Their two sons, Duane and Lloyd, are both employed with the Northwestern Redwood Company. The family adheres to the Lutheran faith, both Mr. and Mrs. Bittenbender being members of families that had clung to that religion from the period of the memorable reformation by Martin Luther. In fraternal connections Mr. Bittenbender belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, besides having membership with his wife in the Order of Rebekahs at Willits.

JOHN A. BLOSSER. Throughout all that part of Mendocino county lying on every side of Willits the name of Blosser stands for high character, tireless energy and equal skill in the diversified arts of farming, stock-raising and the leading bands and orchestras. The talents of John A. Blosser are varied. Into whatever channel of activity he turns his attention he seems to be prospered. Together with his twin brother, Tobias, who has been his partner from from young manhood and who resembles him so closely that the casual observer had difficulty in distinguishing them, he has worked energetically in ranching and with equal enthusiasm in the starting of the organizations known as Blosser's band and Blosser's orchestra. The earlier of these musical companies was founded in December of 1876 and became a large factor in the success of the great gatherings and social function of those days, while the orchestra proved equally prominent in the musical history of an-

other decade. It was the custom of John A. Blosser to play the first violin in the orchestra, and as he found considerable difficulty in securing instruments suited to his critical taste he made two violins for his own use, one of these being a close copy of a Stradivarius and a typical pattern of the Cremona violin. Other members of the family bore a part in the band and orchestra, and his wife as accompanist proved to be as gifted with the piano as he with the violin. Musical ability characterizes the entire family and brings them friends among the devotees of that art. Scarcely less noticable is their efficiency on the practical affairs of life and as farmers and stock-raisers operating upon an extensive scale in their home county. Very naturally therefore they possess influence that is not narrowed to their own immediate neighborhood or to their own circle of agricultural enterprises. When Jacob Blosser decided to leave Iowa for California during the spring of 1850 his twin sons, John A. and Tobias, who were born in Jefferson county, Iowa, September 6, 1849, were only seven months old, and the intimate friends at the old home viewed the departure with regret, fearing that it would be impossible to reach the west with the babies. Yet the journey was made in health and comparative comfort. The family settled near French Camp, and in 1860 came to Little Lake, where the boys were sent to school in a shanty with puncheon floors and board benches. Upon attaining man's estate they took up claims five miles southwest of Willits and began to raise Spanish merino sheep. The original claims were enlarged by purchase of adjacent property, until finally they had eleven hundred acres. From five hundred to one thousand sheep were kept on the ranch, besides a drove of cattle, and the grain and hay raised in the fields were fed to the stock. Besides their other work they ran a threshing machine for more than thirty years, beginning with horse power, but later utilizing a steamer as more practicable and efficient. The marriage of John A. Blosser was solemnized at Willits, May 17, 1888, and united him with Miss Ora Morgan, who was born at Fort Bragg, Cal., student in the Kingston Conservatory of Music at San Jose. For years she was organist in the Methodist Episcopal Church at Willits, and here she has taught practically ever since her marriage. There are two children in the family, Roy and Hazel. The daughter is a graduate of the San Jose State Normal and a teacher in the Ukiah schools. The son, educated at the University of California, is now engaged as instructor in manual training in the Santa Rosa high school. Mrs. Blosser was an only daughter and had one brother, Lauriston Morgan, former president of the Mendocino Discount Bank and now deceased. The parents, Capt. John and Eunice (Latham) Morgan, were natives of New London, Conn., and died in Mendocino county, the latter in 1900, the former in 1895 at the age of seventy-five. During the eventful year of 1849 Captain Morgan came around Cape Horn as master of his own vessel. Later he owned three vessels in the coasting trade. Upon retiring from a sea-faring career he settled at Fort Bragg as superintendent of the Noyo mills. In 1876 he became a pioneer of Willits and bought the Little Lake flour mills, which he operated until 1893 and then retired from business affairs. For years he was identified with the Masonic Order. Mendocino county owed its agricultural association largely to his progressive and determined efforts. The fine race track was made under his leadership and the grounds were developed attractively through his labors, acting in co-operation with other men of progressive spirit and an earnest desire to expand the interests of the county.

DANIEL J. BLOSSER. It is conceded that the majority of people have a hobby, but Mr. Blosser confesses to having two pronounced weaknesses, one for music and the other for hunting. Like all the members of the Blosser family he has a natural talent for music and without special instruction gained a thorough knowledge of the art while yet a mere lad. When the Blosser band was organized during the '70s he played the first B flat cornet, and later he played the same instrument in Blosser's orchestra, with other members of the family developing a musical organization that stood at the very head of its class for the locality and day. There are many pioneers who still aver that the bands of the present day cannot compare in melody with the famous old organization established and maintained by this family. While hunting calls for qualities entirely different from those associated with the art of music, he has been no less successful as a sportsman than as a musician. In the earlier days when game was more plentiful than now, he has shot as many as three panthers in one day. He has killed many bears, while the number of wild cats that fell beneath his unerring aim is so large that no record of the same was ever kept. Music and hunting have been the diversions of a life of great activity as a farmer, stock-raiser, thresherman and land-owner. From the age of seven years Mr. Blosser has been identified with Little Lake valley and the village of Willits, but he is a native of San Joaquin county and was born near French Camp February 13, 1853. He recalls the removal of the family from that section of the state to Mendocino county and the rough, unpromising aspect of the new settlement, which had been made desolate by depredations of the Indians during the latter part of the '50s. While yet a small boy he began to assist his father, Jacob Blosser, in the improving of a ranch and the raising of grain and stock. It was not possible for him to attend school with any regularity, although for about three months of each year he was a pupil in a rude shack with a puncheon floor and board benches and with text-books as crude as the furniture itself. Natural aptitude for reading enabled him to acquire a fair education without the aid of the schools, and he is now well posted in matters of general importance. Four of the Blosser brothers, viz., John Tobias, William and Daniel took up homesteads and pre-emption claims a few miles from Willits and during young manhood worked together in building up a cattle and sheep business. By pre-emption and purchase they acquired twenty-two hundred acres in one body. When the property was finally divided in 1902, Daniel J. sold his interest to William, and since then he has devoted his attention to his real estate and loans and to the work of director in the Willits Realty Company. Although his life is far from being an existence of leisure (for his interests are varied and demand considerable attention), his activities are far less strenuous and exacting now than in the days when he and his brothers owned as high as sixteen hundred head of sheep, a herd of cattle and a large tract of hay and grain land. The threshing of the grain was done for years with horse-power machine, but this was replaced eventually by a steam engine and separator, which the brothers continued to operate until the advent of the railroad. In Willits, where he owns property and makes his home, Mr. Blosser served for eight years as a member of the board of trustees and meanwhile gave the most efficient assistance to movements for the welfare of the town. For thirty years or more he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and during much of that time he has been honored with the office

of trustee. In common with others of his name he was reared to an implicit faith in the principles of the Republican party, and to these he still adheres, although being in sympathy with the policy of the Progressives during recent state and national campaigns.

J. TOBIAS BLOSSER. No name has been more intimately identified with the agricultural enterprises in the vicinity of Willits than that of Blosser. Particularly prominent in local affairs have been Tobias Blosser and his twin brother John, who were born in Jefferson county, Iowa, September 6, 1849, and were brought to California when less than one year old. After a decade in other parts of the state the family became pioneers of Willits, during the latter part of 1860. Here the brothers attended school and aided their father on the home ranch. An opportunity to locate homesteads and pre-emption claims was improved when they attained the age of twenty-one, and for perhaps ten years all of the brothers had interests in common, but ultimately the connection was dissolved with the exception that the twins still continued their interests together. Throughout all of their mature years they have worked harmoniously and efficiently, each considering the interest of the other as though it was his own, each showing toward the other the kindly consideration and quiet but deep regard that forms the foundation of all permanent friendships. In physical appearance as in mental traits they show a marked resemblance. So much alike are they in form, features, manners and tastes that strangers find it difficult to distinguish them, and when they are able to puzzle friends their enjoyment of the situation is especially keen. Much of their time is given to their ranch of eleven hundred acres, five miles southwest of Willits, where they are engaged in raising cattle and Spanish merino sheep as well as grain and hay. For thirty years or more they operated a threshing machine caring for their own grain and that of the neighbors, but ultimately they sold the outfit when the burden of its operation began to tax their strength. The residence of Tobias Blosser is in Willits, off the Fort Bragg road, and is presided over hospitably by Mrs. Blosser, who prior to their marriage at Long Beach, March 21, 1887 was Miss Vienna Thompson. Their family comprised of two children, but one, Jesse, was taken from the home at the age of nineteen, leaving as the only survivor Miss Pearl Blosser, a graduate of the Willits high school. Born at Two Rock, Sonoma county, Cal., Mrs. Blosser was fifth in order of birth among nine children now living, whose parents, Jesse and Margaret (Cameron) Thompson, were natives respectively, of Missouri and Illinois. Both Mr. Thompson and his wife were brought to California when mere children, and the latter still recalls the terrors of the trip caused by Indian attacks. After he had engaged in mining as a temporary expedient, Mr. Thompson took up ranching and made his home at Two Rock, Sonoma county, but in 1869 brought the family to Mendocino county and purchased the old Monroe ranch, about a mile west of Willits. For a considerable period he operated the farm, but eventually sold and established a home in Southern California. His death occurred at Hot Springs, Tulare county about 1909, and since then Mrs. Thompson has made her home at Garden Grove in the southern part of the state. Both Mr. and Mrs. Blosser are active members of the Methodist Church of Willits, in which for many years he has played the cello and otherwise aided in the musical department. From boyhood he has been a lover of music.

Without any opportunity for study under musicians of genius, he and other members of the family trained themselves in the art and developed Blosser's band, of which he was leader, and Blosser's orchestra, for years the leading musical organizations of this part of Mendocino county and the frequent guests of nearby cities on occasions of conventions, political gatherings and patriotic celebrations.

JACOB BLOSSER. To see much of life in the nineteenth century and in different parts of the country was the destiny of Jacob Blosser, whose experiences from 1860 until his death in 1890 were associated with Little Lake valley and Mendocino county. Both he and his wife, who bore the name of Martha Martin, were born and reared in Fayette county, PA., and belonged to pioneer families of the Keystone state, but seeking larger opportunities than that region promised to them, they moved, in 1837, to West Virginia and settled in the Little Kanawha valley. Ten years later they followed the westward drift of migration and became pioneers of Iowa. When they took up land in Jefferson county in 1847 the environment was that of the frontier. Neighbors were few and improvements conspicuous by their absence. Under such circumstances the discovery of gold in California found them restless, scarcely satisfied to remain, yet dreading to start on the long journey across the plains with their large family of little ones. However, they equipped with care and outfitted with ox-teams and wagons, so that the summer of 1850 brought them neither sickness nor disaster. This was all the more gratifying by reason of the fact that their youngest children were twins, seven months old. The first stop was made at Diamond Springs and the second on the Calaveras river about fifty miles above Stockton. After a brief sojourn in the San Ramon valley, Contra Costa county, 1852, Mr. Blosser bought a tract of raw land about two and one-half miles from French Camp, San Joaquin county. For eight years he tilled the soil of that farm, and then, disposing of the place, he drove north to Mendocino county and landed in Little Lake valley November 2, 1860. About one mile southwest of Willits he bought a claim and embarked in the raising of cattle and hogs. In addition he owned interests in lumbering. After a long identification with agriculture in the valley he passed away at the old home, as did his wife, three years after his own demise. They had been earnest Methodists, giving of their time and means with simple generosity to the cause of the church and singing the Gospel hymns with unabated fervor from youth even down to old age. It was their aim to rear their children to lives of usefulness and Christian service. With constant but uncomplaining self-sacrifice they gave themselves to the duties of parenthood and Christian citizenship, and their passing left the community richer for their lives of integrity, better for their many acts of kindness and benefited by their pioneer steadfastness of character. From the organization of the Republican party until his death Mr. Blosser supported its principles and as early as 1856 he attended a Republican convention in San Joaquin county, where only nine delegates were present. At that time the principles of the party were little understood or appreciated in any part of the country, but with keen foresight he discerned the value of its platform and its possibilities of service to the country. All through his life he continued to be interested in public affairs and was well posted concerning national issues. In his family there were ten children, namely: Hannah, Mrs. Tanner,

who died at French camp; Nicholas J., of Willits; Thomas, residing at Healdsburg; Samuel, now at Santa Maria; William, who is engaged in farming near Willits; Lorenzo, employed at Santa Maria; Mary, who married Abraham Cropley and died at Willits; John A. and J. Tobias, twins and business partners; and Daniel J. who also makes his home in Willits.

JAMES LAFAYETTE BROADDUS. One of the early families of Mendocino County who helped shape the future of this area was the Broaddus family. Although the first members of this name settled in the Willits area, they soon became known throughout the county as men interested in education and law enforcement. In the 1850's James Lafayett Broaddus and his wife, Jane, found their way into the northern part of Mendocino County and decided to homestead in the Little Lake Valley. The exact site of their home is not known, but a creek wandering through Willits still bears the name of Broaddus Creek. James Lafayette Broaddus was born in Madison County, Kentucky on November 18, 1824; Jane, in Kentucky on July 30, 1830. Their first child, a daughter, Sarah, was born in Sonoma County on April 8, 1858. A son, Oscar J., followed on November 3, 1859 in Willits. A second son, William Edward, was born in Willits on January 30, 1862; and another daughter, Josephine, born at a later date. James L. served as the Methodist Minister at Willits in the early days of that community. At this same time, he served as the Indian Agent in Round Valley. During the year 1865, he served as County Superintendent of Schools. Later, he was Justice of the Peace for the Little Lake Township. Mr. Broaddus passed away on August 21, 1886 in Covelo.

BENJAMIN BURNS. Was born seven miles south of Lexington, Kentucky, November 10, 1809. When he was but four years of age his parents moved to Washington county, Tennessee, where he resided till 1817. He then, with his parents, moved to Howard county, Missouri, where he lived till 1824. The family next moved to Jackson county, that State, where the subject of this sketch followed farming till 1830. He then moved to Clay county, Missouri, where he was united in marriage with Miss Ann Baxter, January 8, 1832. She was a native of Kentucky, born November 11, 1812, and died March 3, 1851. Soon after their marriage he moved to Gentry county, Missouri, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he followed until 1854. May 11, 1851, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Eliza Steel Uhl, relict of Jesse Uhl. She was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, December 3, 1814. In 1854 they crossed the plains to California and settled in Shasta county, where he mined till the spring of 1857, when he located at Sebastopol, Sonoma county, and remained there till 1859. He then moved to Mendocino county and settled on his present place of five hundred and fifty-five acres. He has eight children as the fruits of his first marriage as follows: James G., born Nov. 1, 1832; Elizabeth H., born March 22, 1835; Horatio, born June 25, 1837; Mary F., born July 3, 1839; Sarah E., born November 22, 1842; William B., born November 23, 1844; Amanda Jane, born February 20, 1848; and Martha S., born March 10, 1850.

FREDERICK HUGH CAMP, D.D.S. An ambition to secure an excellent education laid for Dr. Camp the foundation of a professional success that is developing by steady progress and that is bringing him to a position among the leading dentists of Mendocino county, where since 1905 he has engaged in practice at Willits. The town

of his chosen residence has profited by his professional association with its interests as well as by his professional association with its interests as well as by his fine social qualities and the loyal spirit of citizenship that causes him to encourage every movement for the local upbuilding. All of his life has been passed in the west and he is typically western in his attitude of mind, generosity of nature and energy of character. His father, A. B. Camp, now a citizen of Lents, Multnomah county, Ore., for many years engaged in ranch pursuits near Marshfield, Coos county, that state, and there the doctor was born March 4, 1874, in the same neighborhood he received his primary education. When about fourteen years of age he accompanied the family to Roseburg, Douglas county, where he completed grammar school studies. Later he became a student in the Oregon State Normal at Drain, Douglas county, and continued the regular course there, receiving the degree of A. B. in 1896 upon his graduation. In taking up the profession of teaching, which he followed with success for three years, it was not the intention of Dr. Camp to make it his life work, but rather as the stepping stone to other pursuits. When he had saved enough money to make possible a dental course he came to California in 1899 and matriculated in the San Francisco Dental College, where he kept up the regular course of study until his graduation in 1902. Immediately after completing his training in college he opened at Eureka, but in 1905 came from that city to Willits and entered upon the practice that has since grown steadily and in a manner indicative of the satisfaction given by his efficient services in a dental capacity. Politics has not interested him greatly, but he keeps posted concerning national questions and favors the progressive characteristics, supplementing old Republican principles. His family comprises two sons, Frederick Hugh, Jr., and Paul, and his wife, whom he married in Drain, Ore., and who was Miss Maude De Vore, a native of Illinois and a lady of education and culture.

ABNER COATES. After crossing the plains by covered wagon in 1859, with his wife, Cecelia, and children, Sarah Ann, Margaret, Mary, John, William Wilson, Charles and Abraham, settled on a land grant in Little Lake Township, where he farmed and raised sheep. He formerly lived in Posey County, Indiana, and Lancaster, Wisconsin. He was born November 27, 1800 in Philadelphia. At Little Lake, on election day, October 16, 1867, Abraham was killed in the feud between the Frost and Coates families. Abner died sometime after 1869. Cecelia died March 29, 1884, in Kingsburg, Fresno County. William Wilson moved to Yuba City in 1860, and became Deputy Sheriff of Sutter County. In 1878 he married Lucy Brown. A son, William Harkey Coates, was born in 1879. William Wilson Coates moved to Mt. San Hedrin and died in 1898. William Harkey Coates died in 1916, in Alameda County, and is survived by two children, Ethel Coates Parham and Abram Wilson Coates.

DABNEY LINER COX. Very early in the colonization of Virginia, the Cox family became identified with the agricultural upbuilding, later following the trend of settlement across the mountains into Kentucky and thence into Missouri. Richard and Permelia (Gooch) Cox were born in Lincoln county, Ky., the latter of Scotch descent and a representative of one of America's pioneer families. The former was the son of a soldier in the war of 1812, who went from Kentucky to the south for the purpose of defending the gulf coast

and there took part under General Jackson in the memorable engagement at New Orleans. In seeking new land whereon to engage in general farming Richard Cox removed from Kentucky to Missouri and took up a claim in Montgomery county, where his seventh child, Dabner Liner, was born September 12, 1846, and where the family endured the hardships incident to the development of a farm in a new country. There were eleven children in the family circle, but only three of these are now living. Such were the hardships of life on a Missouri farm during the middle of the nineteenth century that Dabney L. Cox had only the most meager advantages. From earliest recollections he was trained to hard work. At the age of twenty-one he was free to leave home and work for himself and for some years he found employment with farmers of the home neighborhood. Coming to California in 1873, he spent a year in Sutter county and then operated a rented farm in Yolo county for seven years. During 1882 he arrived in Mendocino county and settled near Yorkville, but the following year he removed to Little Lake valley, where he bought a stock ranch five miles west of Willits. The tract embraced nine hundred and sixty acres suitable for the range of cattle and sheep and he at once began to specialize in stockraising, which he continued for twenty-six years. At times he owned as many as six hundred head of merino sheep. When finally he began to feel himself physically unable to cope with the heavy demand upon his energies made by the care and management of large stock and land interests, Mr. Cox in 1909 rented the ranch and moved into Willits. Three years later he sold the large tract. Meanwhile he had bought one acre on South Main street and on this he has equipped with a pumping plant so that it is possible to irrigate his garden of berries, vegetables, and fruit. Much of his time is given to the care of the little place and the returns are larger than would be expected, but this is due to his vigilant supervision and his care in planting only the best varieties. Those competent to judge assert that he raises some of the finest strawberries in the state. Nor has he been less careful in the kinds of vegetables planted, for he believes that nothing pays but the best. In politics he has been a life-long Democrat, but not active in public affairs. Through his marriage to Miss Julia E. Johnson, who was born, educated and married in Montgomery county, Mo., he is the father of one son, Roy Cecil, now engaged in the motorcycle business in San Francisco. Mrs. Cox is the daughter of James B. and Dorinda (Stone) Johnson, born in Norfolk, Va., and St. Charles county, Mo., respectively. The father settled in Missouri, becoming a merchant tailor in Danville, and both parents died in Montgomery county. Of their family of six sons and six daughters (of whom Mrs. Cox was the fourth youngest) there are two sons and five daughters living. On the maternal side Mrs. Cox is descended from an old English family, while on the paternal side she comes from an Old Dominion family.

WILLIAM F. DAVIS. Only child of Thomas and Susan Hartgraves Davis, was born in Hopkins county, Texas, February 8, 1852. He resided in Texas till 1865, when he immigrated to California and settled in Los Angeles county, where he resided for over one year. He then came to Mendocino county and settled in Mendocino City, where he resided till 1876. He then came to Little Lake or Willitsville, where he formed a partnership with W. L. Brown in the hotel and livery business, which he has since continued. He married, April 14, 1880, Miss Sadie Upp, who was born in Little Lake, Mendocino

county, California, July 25, 1858.

ALLEN DAVIDSON. The genealogical records of the Davidson family show that several successive generations inhabited that part of Scotland lying close to the English border. The first to establish the name in the new world was George, who brought his wife and three children to New York during the first half of the nineteenth century, settling near Delhi, Delaware county, where he remained on a farm until his death. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Dunn, was likewise a native of the English border of Scotland and died in New York. Of their eleven children who attained maturity five are still living. Three of the sons were soldiers in the Civil war, namely: George, now of Delhi, who served in the Seventy-second New York Infantry under General Sickles; John, who enlisted in the Eighty-fourth New York Infantry, and died from wounds received in an engagement near Suffolk, Va.; and Thomas, who enlisted in the One Hundred Forty-fourth New York Infantry and was killed in the battle of Honey Hill. The seventh in order of birth among the eleven children was Allen, born at the home farm near Delhi, N.Y., April 9, 1844, and reared on the same farm to a knowledge of the details of agriculture. When his older brothers went to the front as volunteers in the Union service he remained on the farm and assisted in the maintenance of the family. It was not until 1867 that he was free to follow his own inclinations as to choice of a permanent location and he then came via Panama to California, where he found employment in dairying at Petaluma, Sonoma county. A first experience as to Mendocino county and Little Lake valley came to Mr. Davidson in 1870, when he embarked in the stock business in this locality. Returning to his old home at Delhi he there married, September 28, 1871, Miss Jennie Williamson, a native of Meredith, Delaware county, and a daughter of David Williamson, a farmer, born in Scotland. The young couple came at once to California and settled on a dairy ranch near Petaluma. During the fall of 1872 they came to Mendocino county, where Mr. Davidson continued in the stock business for a year. With 1873 he again took up dairying, this time at Two Rock. The drove of stock was continued on the range near Willits and in 1876 he returned to take charge of the business. The following year he located a claim five miles west of Willits, where he established a home and gradually replaced the herd of cattle with a flock of sheep, finding the latter a more profitable line of industry. In time he was able to buy out his partner and purchase adjacent land, but ultimately he sold the ranch. At this writing he owns a stock ranch of seventeen hundred and sixty acres four miles west of Willits. The entire tract is fenced and is well watered by springs and two creeks. The raising of hay is a leading line of labor, but the special feature of the work is the raising of merino sheep, of which he now has nine hundred head. There is also now forty head of cattle on the ranch. When the California Western Railroad & Navigation Company built a line through to Fort Bragg it crossed his place and a station was established on the ranch, thus making it convenient for the shipment of stock. Retiring from the management of the ranch in 1906 and establishing a home in Willits, Mr. Davidson since has engaged as a director in the Willits Realty Company and is also a stockholder in the Bank of Willits. During 1910 he and his wife enjoyed a visit back to New York and a renewal of the friendships of early life near the old home in Delaware county, while the pleasure of the trip

was increased by a tour of the east both interesting and comprehensive, but that sent them back to California glad that destiny had planted their permanent home in the land beside the sunset sea. Of their three children, the eldest, George M., and the youngest, Mrs. Mabel Brown, live in Willits. The second, Marshall, who married Bessie Shaffer and is the father of three sons, Howard, Wilbur and Donald, has occupied and superintended the ranch west of Willits ever since the retirement of his father from arduous agricultural cares. In politics Mr. Davidson is a Republican. Years ago he was made a Mason in Willits Lodge No. 365, F. & A. M., of which he is a past master, and he is also worthy patron of Willits Chapter No. 314, Order of the Eastern Star, with which both he and his wife are prominently connected.

EDWIN F. DeCAMP, SR. There is perhaps no more beautiful or healthful location to be found in northern California than in Mendocino county. One of the coast counties, it has all the benefits of the ocean breeze, while in the eastern part the country is mountainous and heavily timbered, giving one an infinity of choice. Here many have come in search of that greatest boon of mankind--health, and few who have stayed a reasonable length of time have been compelled to go away unbenefited. It was the failing health of a loved son that brought Edwin F. DeCamp, Sr., to California, and gave to Mendocino county one of her strongest men. Of long business experience in commercial lines, Mr. DeCamp has, since living here, devoted himself wholly to agriculture, until the past year or two, when he has in a measure returned to the commercial world, but it is in the light of an agriculturist that he is to be regarded in the work he has done for this county. He is possessed of an unusually keen business judgment and executive ability which have enabled him to build up a lucrative business in the live stock business, and his farm is today one of the most beautiful and valuable to be found in this section. He has also taken no small part in advancing the general welfare of the community of which he has been so long a part, and is widely known and respected. Edwin F. DeCamp, Sr., was born and reared in Cincinnati, Ohio, his birth occurring September 16, 1839. The family was an old one in that state, the father having been born there, and when Mr. DeCamp married he chose a Cincinnati girl for his bride, Miss Carrie Wallis. After completing his scholastic education Mr. DeCamp opened up a hardware establishment in Cincinnati, and from a small beginning built up a large and prosperous trade. Just at a time when his prospects seemed most promising and success assured, the parents noticed with anxiety the drooping spirits of their oldest child, Edwin F., Jr. Doctors seemed unable to benefit the little fellow, and finally the father was advised to take him to an entirely new location, his only chance of recovery apparently lying in a change of climate. Northern California being advised, Mr. DeCamp brought the boy to Willits, in the northern part of Mendocino county, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing the rosy flush of health return to the boy's cheek. Satisfied that he had found the desired place in which to rear his family to a strong manhood and womanhood, Mr. DeCamp returned home and disposed of his business, after which he brought the entire family to Willits, purchasing the old Potter ranch of eight hundred acres from Mr. Rolston. He has since then brought that land up to a high state of cultivation. One of his first undertakings was the building of a beautiful

and comfortable home for his family, and after that he continued to erect good barns, fences and out-buildings on the place, and otherwise beautify and improve it as his means and time permitted. For some years past Mr. DeCamp has conducted a dairy on his place and recently he has added a modern creamery, thoroughly equipped and up-to-date in every respect. His cattle are Jerseys crossed with Red Poll cattle and the herd is one of the finest to be found in this section--all clean, healthy animals. He milks on an average of seventy-five cows the year round. In addition to his farm, Mr. DeCamp is also interested in the mercantile house of Irvine & Muir Company, incorporated in 1901, and owns stock in the Neil Rock Milling Company. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. DeCamp; Edwin F., Jr., now an engineer; Ellen, Myron, Flora and Carrie. Mr. DeCamp has found time to take an active interest in municipal matters, and in addition to serving on the town board eight years, has in other ways given evidence of his willingness to promote the public welfare. He took an active part in the organization of the first agricultural society in the county.

GEORGE A. DECKER. The oldest son of Edward and Dolly Ann Puffer Decker, was born in Minasha, Wisconsin, July 21, 1854. When he was two years old, his parents moved to Kewaunee county, that State, where the subject of this sketch resided till 1872, when, in July of that year, he came to California, and settled in Oakland, Alameda county, where he resided till the spring of 1876, when he came to Sonoma county, and settled at Geyserville, where he opened a mercantile business, which he continued till 1878, when he came to Sherwood and began business there. He was appointed postmaster at Sherwood in February, 1879, and still holds that position. Mr. Decker has also prepared a remedy for asthma, which is now becoming quite popular through this State. Married in Oakland, July 15, 1873, Miss Mary Parson, who was born in Oakland, November 6, 1856, and by this union there is Ethel Alice, born October 9, 1874; Albert Eugene, born September 22, 1875; and George Edward, born August 9, 1878.

BENJAMIN DOUGHERTY. Was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, February 12, 1815, where he received a common school education and was engaged in farming and flat boating till September, 1845. He then emigrated to Adams county, Illinois, where he filled various positions till 1850. On March 19th of that year, he left for California, coming via Hedspeth route, and arriving in Sacramento July 22d of that year. He immediately began mining on Weaver creek, four miles south of Coloma, where he continued until September. He then went to Slate creek, El Dorado county, where he spent the winter of 1850-51. In the spring of 1851, he went on a prospecting tour to Consumnes; thence to Sacramento, and from there up the Feather to Bidwell's Bar; then to Wyandotte City, where he mined for a short time; and then back to Bidwell's Bar, where he worked for a time. In the fall of 1851, he went to Shasta county, and spent the winter on Churn creek. In the spring of 1852, he, with six others, went to Cow creek, that county, on a prospecting tour. We next find him at Weaverville, Trinity county, where he engaged to work at whip-sawing at \$8 per day. In the winter of 1852, he went down Trinity river to Canadian Bar, where he engaged in mining till April, 1853; he then returned to Weaverville, and in that vicinity remained till the fall of 1855. He

then went to Arbuckle, Shasta county, where he engaged in whip-sawing till May 1856. In the above-named month, he came to Mendocino county, and settled on his present ranch, where he has since continuously resided, being among the first to take up land in this vicinity. He is unmarried.

ROBERT JAMES DRYDEN. The proprietor of the Little Lake stables has been interested in the livery business at Willits since 1900, when he opened a small barn on the present site on Main street and embarked in the business that he still follows. Having very little capital, he was forced to begin upon a small scale, but it was not long before he had gained the confidence of business men and was establishing a trade that gave gratifying promise for the future. At first he kept very few horses; now he has twenty-one head of good drivers. Needing more room he erected his present large stable, 72 x 120 feet, two floors, all devoted to the livery business. The equipment of vehicles is complete, well-assorted, modern. Everything pertaining to the carriages and harness is maintained in first-class condition, indicative of the careful, close oversight of the proprietor. In 1914 seeing the need of garage and automobile livery in Willits, he associated himself with Barney Schow and built a garage 62 x 130 feet, adjoining his stables, but facing Humboldt street. This is a two-story steel building, the first floor for automobile storage and repair shop and second floor for painting and storage. Automobiles are kept on hand for hire as well as for sale. While giving his attention closely to the building up of a good trade and the enlargement of his business, he has not neglected the duties of good citizenship, but has found time to serve as a member of the city school board and the board of trustees of Willits, in which capacities he has labored to promote the best interests of the people. The son of Nathaniel Dryden, a California pioneer who crossed the plains from Missouri during the summer of 1849, Robert J. Dryden was born at Georgetown, Eldorado county, this state, November 6, 1887, and passed the first fifteen years of life in his native county. During 1882 he came to Little Lake, Mendocino county, and found employment on a ranch, after which, either in the employ of others or in working for his own interests, he engaged in raising sheep and cattle in the valley. Always he was skilled in the treatment of stock and was regarded as an expert judge of horses, which he could break and manage with skill, and it was this fondness for horses that led him into establishing a livery barn at Willits. Since coming here he has been made a Mason in Willits Lodge, No. 365, F. & A. M., and with his wife is a member of the Eastern Star. He is also a member of the Eagles, Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World. By his marriage to Lillie Longland, a native of the county and a daughter of George Longland, one of Mendocino county's most honored pioneers, he has two children, Roberta and Ernest.

JESSE C. DUFFIELD. The manager of the hardware department of the Irvine and Muir Lumber Company at Willits has lived in California since 1885 and in Mendocino county since 1901. A native of Kansas, he was born at Walton, Harvey county, July 8, 1874, and is a son of W. H. and Sarah J. (Ogden) Duffield, natives of Illinois, the latter now a resident of Willits. The father, who served in an Illinois regiment during the Civil war and received serious wounds in the service of his country, afterward took up land

on the frontier of Kansas and soon became engaged in general merchandising at Walton. After many years in the same town, during 1885, he brought his family to the west and settled at Arbuckle, Colusa county, where he carried on a general store. Coming to Willits in 1901, he started a mercantile store on Main street. Later he conducted a similar establishment at Ukiah, where he died in 1906. His fraternities were the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ancient Order of United Workmen and Grand Army of the Republic. Surviving him are the widow and four children, namely: Mrs. Hattie Wattenburg, of Laurel Dell, Lake county; Mrs. Myrtle Saxson of Willits; Jesse C. of Willits; and his twin sister, Mrs. Bessie Tibbitts, of Los Angeles. The only son in the family began to assist his father in the mercantile business at a very early age and it was not until 1903 that he engaged in any occupation other than merchandising. From that year until 1907 he was employed as an airbrake inspector for the Northwestern Railroad. During the fall of 1907 he became manager of the hardware department for the Irvine and Muir Lumber Company and to this responsible position he has since given his attention. The residence erected by Mr. Duffield on North street is presided over hospitably by his wife, formerly Miss Nettie Bahn, who was born in Rock Tree valley, Mendocino county, and is a daughter of Fred Bahn, a well-known pioneer. In childhood she attended the schools of Willits and laid the foundation there of an excellent education. In religion she is associated with the Baptist denomination. The four children in the family are William, Ernest, Veva and Lawrence. Politically a Republican, in 1911 Mr. Duffield was appointed city clerk to fill a vacancy in the office and in April of the following year he was duly elected to the position, which since he has filled with characteristic efficiency and tact. His fraternities are the Moose, Knights of the Maccabees and Knights of Pythias at Willits, in which he has been not only an active worker, but at times an officer. A man of much worth he is recognized as one of the leading citizens of Willits and his popularity and prominence are the result of long association with interests tending to promote the local progress.

RALPH THOMPSON DUNCAN. A comparatively recent but very important accession to the business enterprises of Willits is the Rex Drug Company, dispensing chemists and manufacturers of the Rex remedies. When the founder of the business came to the town in the fall of 1910 he purchased Reed's pharmacy but soon found the building too small for the growing business. Accordingly in 1911 he secured and remodeled the present institution, putting in new fixtures, a soda fountain and the first plate glass front in Willits. Especially unique is the ice-cream parlor, which is attractively finished in redwood bark, with an artistic effect unsurpassed by any similar institution in the county. The manufacture of ice cream and confectionery is carried on under the most sanitary and wholesome conditions, while in an entirely separate department are manufactured the Rex remedies, including Ralph's health tablets, Rex Lightning Liniment, Rex Mendo-Tone (a tonic), Rex skin cream (a cure for poison oak). Rex Benzoated lotion (for the complexion) and Rex croup syrup, a cough mixture for children. The prescription department is located on the mezzanine floor. In 1913 E. Y. Himmelwright was taken into partnership as a member of the Rex Drug Company, making possible a still further enlargement of the business and an even closer attention to every detail of the several

departments. A native of Mendocino county, Ralph Thompson Duncan was born at Ukiah, May 8, 1887, and is a son of Charles Henry and Elizabeth (Shattuck) Duncan, also natives of California. The paternal grandfather Jacob Duncan, came from Virginia to the Pacific coast in a very early day and became a pioneer builder in Ukiah, where later Charles H. engaged successively in the hotel and banking business and as steward for the Mendocino state hospital. After twelve years in the last-named position he returned to the banking business and became assistant cashier for the Bank of Ukiah. There were three children in the family. The second, Ralph T., a graduate of the Ukiah high school, class of 1905, had begun the study of pharmacy while only in the seventh grade of the grammar school. For some time he was employed in the Hoffman (afterward the Gibson) pharmacy. In order to acquire a thorough knowledge of the work he took the full course in pharmacy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at San Francisco and in 1907 he passed an examination before the state board of examiners. Meantime he had gained practical experience as an employe in a San Francisco pharmacy. From that city he returned to Mendocino county and has since engaged as a pharmacist in Willits, where he has improved and developed one of the finest drug and ice-cream establishments in this section of the state. Along the line of his chosen occupation he maintains membership in the California Pharmaceutical Association. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Rebekahs and is proud of the fact that when only eight years of age he was chosen a drummer boy for the Knights of Pythias in Ukiah. In San Francisco he married Miss Iris Clare, a native of College City, Colusa county, the mother of one child, Marjorie Iris Duncan, and a leading member of the Rebekahs and Eastern Star at Willits.

JAMES EDWARDS. Much honor is due to the railroad man who has braved the dangers incident to railroading to bring thousands of passengers dependent upon him safely to their destinations, but still more deference must be paid to the engineer or conductor, whose duty takes him to the front in the starting of new roads, whether it be on the plains or mountains. Then the completion of the road is not the open sesame to the running of the trains, for many years often elapse before they move regularly, the rough country often causing dangerous slides, which retard and hold up traffic. It takes an engineer of years of experience and careful training for the responsible and difficult undertaking, and such a man we find in James Edwards, who holds a responsible position with the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company. He is engaged in running a train out of Willits on the newly constructed road to Dos Rios. Coming from a fine old southern family, Mr. Edwards' birth occurred in Orleans, Fla. His father, J. W. Edwards, served as a captain in the southern army during the Civil war, and had three sons who were killed while in active service in the Confederate army. The captain survived the war and became a farmer. James Edwards attended the public schools and began railroading in youth. Working in different departments on various lines, he soon mastered railroading in all its details and twelve years ago came to California to enter the employ of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company as a conductor. His retention in that company indicates how faithful he is to his trust and how well he fulfills his every duty. Mrs. Edwards was before her marriage, Mary Marsh of New Orleans and to her and her husband has been born one child, Rose-

marie, the delight and joy of their life. The charming personality of Mr. Edwards and his sunny, optimistic disposition have won him hosts of friends, his ready smile easily winning the confidence of the public. Gifted by nature with those qualities that make him at once well received, he is a leader in his line of work.

MRS. ROSA D. EXLEY. Of old and honored southern lineage, Mrs. Exley was born near Elizabethtown, Hardin, Ky., and is a daughter of the late C. S. and Nancy (Daugherty) Daugherty, who although bearing the same name, came from families entirely unrelated. For sixty years, from early manhood until his death at a venerable age, Mr. Daugherty gave the most efficient and self-sacrificing service to the Methodist Episcopal Church South, whose Ministry he adorned and whose doctrines he upheld with intelligent zeal. Meanwhile he owned and managed his fine plantation of one thousand acres near Elizabethtown, where were wont to gather fellow ministers to receive practical counsel and cheerful encouragement from this learned man of the church. His devotion to his family was equalled only by his love of the church, and he gave to wife and children the affectionate attentions that gave him the first place in the heart of each. There were five children and three of these are still living. Mrs. Exley being the youngest child and only daughter. So rapid was her advancement under the capable training of her father that at the age of sixteen she was qualified to teach school, and for seven years she followed that profession with commendable zeal and noteworthy success. There had been two brothers of Rev. C. S. Daugherty who were attracted to California by the lure of the gold fields. The second of these left Kentucky early in 1857 and undoubtedly perished on the plains, but no word of his fate ever came back to the waiting relatives. The other brother, Benjamin, had crossed the plains in 1855 on horseback and had arrived in Sacramento with fifty cents as his total capital. Fortunately he secured work at once with a lumber company and was paid \$8 per day. Soon he drifted to the mines at Marysville, but did not find the hoped-for fortune in the camp or river bed. Directing his attention to the acquisition of land, he became a pioneer of Little Lake valley, Mendocino county, and took up one hundred acres of government land near the present site of Willits. There he remained until his death in 1883. All through this part of the country he was known as General Daugherty, the title coming from his skillful resistance of Indian attacks on the plains, where he so shrewdly and successfully outgeneraled the savages that he was given a military title among his acquaintances. Having no family to inherit his property, it fell to the brother in Kentucky, Rev. C. S. Daugherty, who in 1901 with his son, Robert, came to Mendocino county and laid out the Daugherty addition to Willits. When the business had been settled and the addition sold Mr. Daugherty returned to his Kentucky plantation in April, 1904, and there he passed away February 5, 1914, having survived his aged wife, who died at the old home June 28, 1908. Their daughter, Mrs. Exley, joined her father and brother at Willits March 28, 1902, and in San Francisco November 23, 1904 she became the wife of M. D. Exley who was born and reared in that city. A painter and decorator by trade, he continued to follow the trade since his marriage, although a portion of his time is given to the ranch owned by Mrs. Exley and located one mile west of Willits. Two hundred and five acres are devoted largely to pasturage, hay and grain, and stock-raising has been made a vital part of the farm work. The family

of Mr. and Mrs. Exley consists of four children, namely: Fred Corneli-
lius, Rosa Daugherty, Alice Roberta and Richard Martin. In addi-
tion Mrs. Exley took into her home a lonely girl of twelve years,
Rose Kramer, who now at nineteen years is repaying the kindness
of the past by her own affectionate devotion to the entire family
and particularly to the small children. This act on the part of
Mrs. Exley is indicative of her helpful, kindly and capable dis-
position. Brimming over with the milk of human kindnesses, she
is ever ready and anxious to assist those less fortunate than her-
self and never allows an opportunity to pass for the doing of some
unselfish act in the interests of others. For years she has been
a communicant of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Descended from
staunch old Democratic forefathers, she is ardent in her advocacy
of the same principles and takes much interest in public affairs.
To an exceptional degree she possesses business ability and all
of her interests are controlled with sagacious judgment, while
combined with this important attribute are cheerfulness under all
circumstances, gentleness and a loyal devotion to family and friends.

SILAS BARRON FARNSWORTH. The owner of the Sherwood Creamery ranch
in Mendocino county is an influential member of a pioneer Californ-
ia family that has been connected with the history of San Francis-
co since the '50s, the first of the name on the coast having been
his father, the late David L. Farnsworth, a native of New Hampshire
and a man of remarkably forceful characteristics. Innate individ-
ual attributes, quickened by the circumstance of association with
the west during an epoch-making era, enabled him to attain an un-
usual degree of success. From a most humble beginning that includ-
ed the work of a hired hand on a milk ranch, he rose to be the
executive head of a large enterprise. The purchase of a team prov-
ed the foundation of a teaming business which, with the later ad-
mission of John Ruggles into partnership and with the incorporation
of the firm of Farnsworth & Ruggles, utilized thirty-six large draft
horses in one team for the hauling in one load of the heaviest
freight and machinery brought to San Francisco. At the time of his
death in 1899 the business had developed into the largest teaming
concern in the entire city, and he was then succeeded by a man who
had learned the business under him, George A. Hart, as president
and general manager. Politics interested him little nor was he
solicitous to identify himself with local affairs, although he
yielded to the persuasions of friends and consented to serve for
one term as representative from the eighth ward upon the county
board of supervisors. For years he was associated with Masonry
and exemplified in his life the doctrines of philanthropy and bro-
therhood enunciated by the order. Eight years after his demise
occurred the death of his wife, Fannie (Locke) Farnsworth, who
like himself claimed New Hampshire as her native commonwealth.
The family of this influential pioneer of San Francisco numbered
three children, two of whom survive. The eldest, Silas Barron,
was born in San Francisco February 28, 1868, and received an ex-
cellent education in the Lincoln grammar school and the commercial
department of Litton Springs College. After the completion of his
business course in 1889 he entered the office of Farnsworth & Rug-
gles as bookkeeper and collector, continuing as such for six years,
and he is still a large stockholder and a director in the concern.
The necessity of superintending the Sherwood creamery ranch brought
him to the Sherwood valley, Mendocino county, where he has since
remained, although since 1904 he has leased the ranch and stock

and has made his headquarters in Willits. The ranch lies ten miles north of town on the Humboldt county road and comprises fifteen hundred and twenty acres well adapted for the raising of hay and grain and for the pasturage of stock. Usually about one hundred and twenty-five tons of hay are cut from the meadows and this is used for the winter feed of the dairy herd of one hundred and fifty head of milch cows. Some of the finest full-blooded and high-grade Holsteins to be found in the entire country, are on his ranch, included among them being winners of first prizes at the 1913 State Fair in Sacramento. At this writing about eighty-five head are being milked. The butter sold from the ranch is purchased in the markets of Willits, Fort Bragg and Ukiah, and the perfection of quality results in the sale of all product at the highest prices. Since leasing the ranch and the fine herd of Holsteins, Mr. Farnsworth has maintained only a general supervision of the property and has thus had leisure for the due consideration of other large and valuable interests elsewhere in the state. Aside from membership in the Eagles he has no fraternal connections, nor has he been active in politics except in the respect of casting a straight Republican ticket at general elections. Enterprises for the upbuilding of the town and county have depended upon his wise counsel and energetic participation, and in Willits there is a general recognition of his executive ability, progressive spirit and devotion to public interests.

WILLIAM FULWIDER. The subject of this sketch was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, April 5, 1832. At his birthplace he received a common school education, and resided till the spring of 1852 when he came via Cape Horn to California, arriving in the Golden State in August of that year. He immediately proceeded to Trinity county and began mining near Weaverville, which business he followed in that vicinity till the spring of 1856, when in May of that year he came to Mendocino county, and settled on his present place of three hundred and twenty acres. In June, 1856 he went to the Fraser River excitement, and was absent one year, when he again returned to his home in this valley, and has since resided here. Married in October, 1860, and has nine children, Robert H., born December 27, 1861; Sarah F., November 18, 1863; Mary J., September 10, 1865; John W., February 12, 1867; Theodore E., November 9, 1868; Lucine E., September 29, 1870; Ella F., October 14, 1872; Augustus C., February 8, 1875; Laura E., December 25, 1876.

PROFESSOR ROY GOOD. Educational work is of leading importance to all the citizens in every community. Those who enter the profession must necessarily possess qualities of an high order, for to their hands and to their intelligence is committed the task of preparing the young for the responsibilities of life. The principal of the grammar school of Willits is a young man standing at the threshold of his career as instructor, yet already shown to be the possessor of the difficult qualifications called for in his chosen work. Clear insight into character, phenomenal energy and a capacity for this important work admirably adapt him for the profession, while a dispassionate attitude renders him successful as a disciplinarian. Outside of the schoolroom he is known to be a young man of pleasing personality and broad information, a cultured conversationalist and a keen student of life and of human nature. Representing the third generation of the family in California, Professor Good may truly be termed of pioneer extraction.

His father, Bennett, was born near Sutter's Fort, Sacramento county in 1854, and his earliest recollections were those of the gold fields, with their throngs of miners from every part of the world. While yet very young he tried his luck at mining as his father had done before him, but in neither instance was there any encouragement in results. Later he turned his attention to stock-raising and became a cattleman in Humboldt county, whence he came to Mendocino county to take up general farming. Upon retiring from agricultural cares he established a home in Willits and there he still resides, together with his wife, who was Lillian Emery, a native of Holly, Mich. Their family comprised four sons and three daughters, and the third in order of birth, Roy, was born at Willits, December 16, 1888, received a high school education and is one of the native-born sons of whom the community is justly proud. After having taught for a number of years in the valley, in 1912 he was elected principal of the Willits grammar school, and has since filled the office with efficiency, making good in his chosen work of educator. With a sound mind, a sound body and a calm temperament, he discharges the duties of each day impartially and with judicial tact. While giving himself closely to educational work he has found leisure for the fraternities and is actively associated with Willits Lodge No. 256, I.O.O.F. also with the Rebekahs at Willits.

PARKER L. HALL. Diversified interests, civic, political and commercial, have had the intelligent participation of Mr. Hall, who as a resident of Mendocino county since 1868 and as a leading citizen of Willits has figured in enterprises for the permanent progress of the community. Since 1905 he has served in the capacity of city engineer and at the same time has filled the office of superintendent of streets, besides which he holds a commission as notary public and carries on also a general insurance business as a representative of old-line companies. In the capacity of engineer he has made surveys to establish grades, has surveyed for the sewage system and has laid out all the subdivisions and additions to Willits as well as the acre tracts. For ten years or more he served as justice of the peace, and his impartial, intelligent service proved satisfactory to the people of the township. Appointed postmaster at Willits under the McKinley administration, he filled the office for five years and proved thoroughly capable and efficient. From the age of eleven years Mr. Hall has lived in California. His father, Larned M., a native of Massachusetts and a farmer by occupation, came via Nicaragua to the west in 1853 and engaged in farming near Ione, Amador county. Meanwhile his wife, Rosette (Hollister) Hall, had left Massachusetts with her only child, Parker L., and had gone to visit relatives in Rockford, Ill. pending a trip to the western coast as soon as her husband had prepared for her. While yet at Rockford in 1855 she died and the boy was given a home by an uncle in Whiteside county, Ill., but in 1861 his father returned for him and brought him to California via Panama, settling at Ione, in Amador county. In 1868 both came to Little Lake valley, Mendocino county, and settled on a farm, but afterward the father sold the property and bought a ranch near Ukiah, where in 1889 his death occurred. Parker L. who was born at Sandersfield, Mass., November 22, 1850, is a graduate of Comings academy and taught school for a year, afterward studying surveying, which he has since followed more or less closely. For some years he engaged in carpentering and building. With the excep-

tion of a few years he has lived in Little Lake valley continuously since 1868 and is one of the leading Republicans of Willits as well as a contributor to movements for the educational and commercial welfare of the community. Fraternally he is past grand of Little Lake Lodge No. 277, I.O.O.F., and for years officiated as secretary of the same. He is also past district deputy grand master of District No. 60. In Little Lake valley he married Miss Nancy Case, who was born in Missouri and at an early age came to California with her father, James Case, a pioneer of this valley. From girlhood she has been an earnest Christian and a sincere member of the Baptist Church. Five children were born of their union, one of whom, James, died at twenty-three years of age. Those now living are as follows: George D., a farmer; Thomas H., a blacksmith; and Jesse L., a carpenter (all three sons living in Little Lake valley and being well known at Willits); and the only daughter, Tillie R., wife of H. C. Mohn, also of Willits.

CHRIS HANSEN. The opportunities afforded by Mendocino county to young men of determination of character and energy of temperament find an illustration in the life of Chris Hansen, a native of Aro, Denmark, born November 4, 1854, and since the spring of 1875 a resident of California. His father was a farmer in the fertile little island where Chris was reared and educated in the public school, and he remained at home assisting on the farm until nearly twenty-one years of age, when he came to California. After two years at Stewart's Point he came in 1877 to Westport, Mendocino county, where he engaged in teaming until 1902. At that time he rented land and began farming, afterwards purchasing the ranch known as the Gordon ranch and at about the same time engaged in butchering in Westport. In about 1907 he located in Covelo, Round Valley, where he purchased and improved a ranch; later, in 1910, removing to Ukiah and from there to Willits. At this writing Mr. Hansen is the owner of a quarter section of grain land in Round valley and also owns a one hundred and sixty acre ranch of valley land adjoining Willits, the tract forming a rich, productive farm, well adapted to grain, hay and potatoes, which he superintends and operates. In addition he owns a butcher shop at Willits and a slaughter house near the town, besides having a one-half interest in the Ukiah Meat Market. The management of the land and the meat business keeps him busily engaged the year round and just now his activities are rendered more important through the filling of a large contract to supply meat to the employes of the Utah Construction Company, engaged in construction work in the extension of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad to Eureka. Fraternally Mr. Hansen was made a Mason in Covelo Lodge No. 231, F. & A.M., and with his wife is a member of Willits Chapter No. 314, O.E.S. By his marriage at Westport in August, 1887, he was united with Miss Martha Branscomb, born in Green valley, Sonoma county, the daughter of B. F. Branscomb, a pioneer of California now residing in Branscomb, Mendocino county. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have a family of nine children, namely: Ethel (now Mrs. E. S. Bray of Willits, Cal.), Carrie, Lawrence (who is married to Kate Hurt and who assists his father), Genevieve, James (deceased), Lillabel, Mildred, Chris. J. and Lucile, all natives of Mendocino county.

JESSE HEYWARD. A lifetime resident of California and from young manhood permanently identified with the lumber business in all of its departments. Mr. Heyward has witnessed the growth of the com-

monwealth and the development of his chosen occupation. Every phase of lumbering from logging to sawing and planing he thoroughly understands, for he has had a practical experience dating back to his youth, when he began to learn the rudiments of the industry, and extending up to the present time with his duties of a most responsible nature. Efficiency shown in previous positions of trust led to his selection in 1903 to come to Willits as manager of the planing mill and yards of the Northwestern Redwood Company, a large concern that makes shipments of all grades of lumber to every part of the United States. In this post he has made good, proving a valuable man to the company as well as a distinct addition to the citizenship of the town. The Heyward family is of old English extraction. Thomas, who was born and raised in Devonshire, left England at the age of twenty-one to establish himself in the new world, making the voyage via Quebec. For a few years he worked at farming in Illinois near Springfield and while there he married Eliza Church, a native of that state. During 1850 he and his wife crossed the plains with ox-teams and wagon. It was his intention to engage in mining, but his first experiences in that line proved so unprofitable that he was obliged to seek another source of livelihood. Thus it happened that he settled on a ranch near Bodega, Sonoma county, whence later he removed to Fort Ross in the same county, and in 1886 he established himself on a ranch near Point Arena, where he specialized in the dairy business. His wife died at Fort Ross and his demise occurred in 1907 at Santa Rosa. Their four sons, all living, are as follows: William, of San Francisco; Frank, of Petaluma; Jesse, of Mendocino county; and Henry, of Oakland. During the residence of the family on a ranch near Bodega, Sonoma county, Jesse Heyward was born January 21, 1867. The public schools of Bodega and Fort Ross gave him advantages in the ordinary lines of study. In 1886 he came with his father to Mendocino county and settled at Point Arena, where he began to learn the lumber business. At first he worked as a day laborer in the logging camps. Little by little he advanced as his experience made his services more valuable to the company. For a time he was employed as head sawyer in the sawmill of the Westover Company at Guerneville, Sonoma county. On returning to Mendocino county, he became foreman of the yard of the Gualala Mill Company at Gualala, later holding a similar position with the Usal Redwood Company. After a period of employment at Caspar, Mendocino county, as assistant foreman with the Caspar Lumber Company, in 1903 he came to Willits, where since he has been connected with the Northwestern Redwood Company as manager of the planing mill and yards. It has not been his inclination to participate in politics, but he keeps posted concerning public affairs and votes the Republican ticket at national elections. Since coming to Willits, he has been connected with the local lodge, Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Heyward, formerly Clara N. Blair, was born at Cahto, Mendocino county, and received her education in local schools. She is the daughter of William J. and Mary (Wood) Blair, who were born in Vermont and Alameda county, Cal., respectively. By the former marriage of Mr. Heyward to Mary C. Beebe, of Point Arena, he is the father of two children. The son, George, assists in the mill and yard. The daughter, Hazel, is a graduate nurse of McNutt hospital and is now the wife of P. A. Hugo, of Los Angeles.

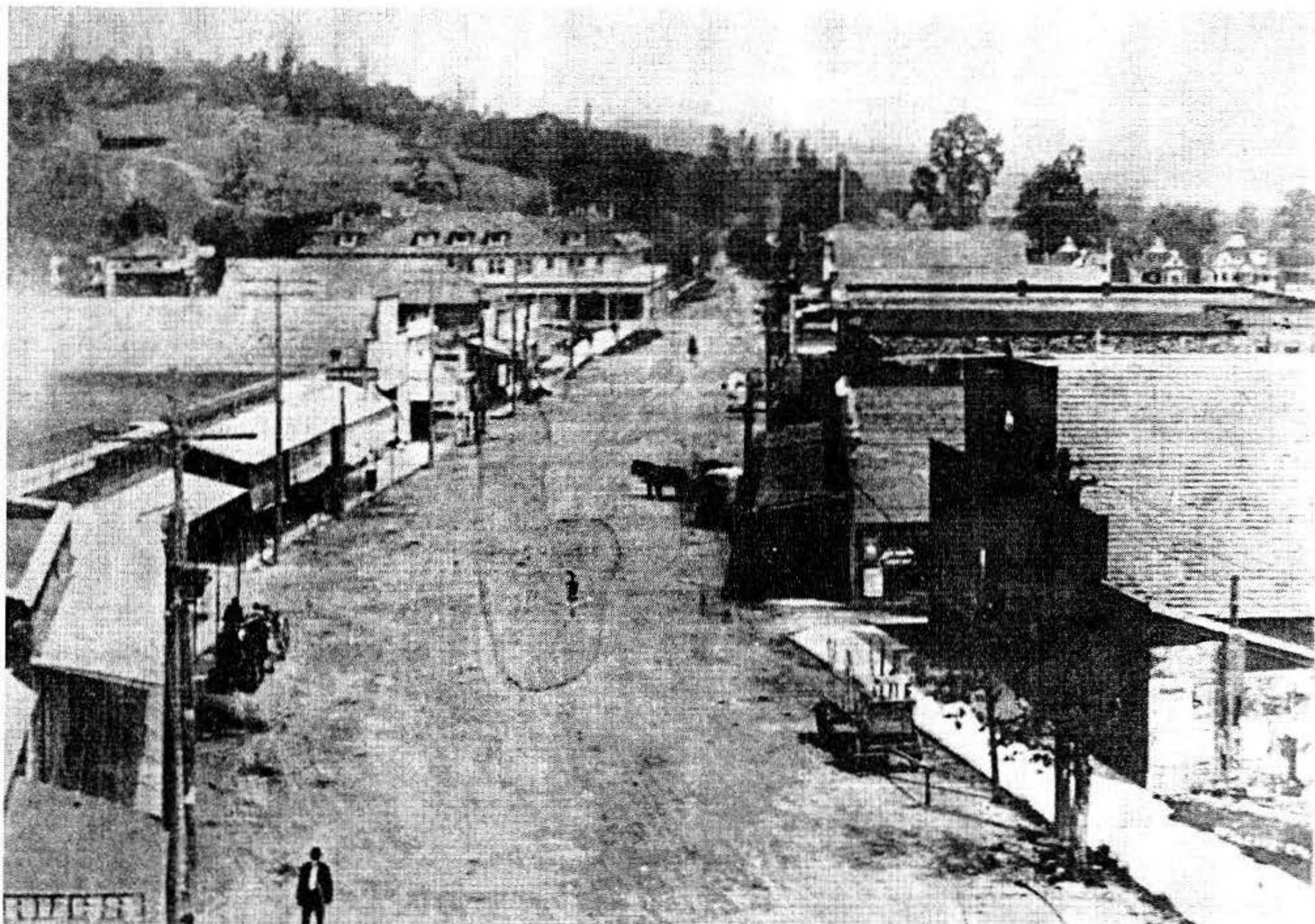
EDWIN Y. HIMMELWRIGHT. German descent is indicated by the name Himmelwright. Very early in the colonization of the new world

some of the family established themselves in Pennsylvania and there successive generations lived and died. A nineteenth century representative married a Miss Jennings, of an old English family, and their son, Samuel born near Trenton, became proprietor of the Red-line hotel at Ardmore, Montgomery county, Pa., the only inn along the Lancaster pike and noted as a meeting place of officers during the Revolutionary period. Not far away in Malvern, Chester county, the site of one of the engagements that helped to make history in the United States. From the hotel Samuel Himmelwright moved to a farm near Bristol and there spent his last years in agricultural pursuits. By his marriage to Maria Crewe, who was born near Valley Forge of English descent and now resides at Doylestown, Pa., he had a family of six children, five of whom are now living. The youngest of the number, Edwin Yocum, was born at Ardmore, Montgomery county, Pa., April 15, 1883, and is a graduate of the E. Spencer Miller high school in Philadelphia. A love of adventure and desire to see the country have led him to many parts of the United States, but of all the states California is his favorite and nowhere has he found conditions more to his liking than on the Pacific coast. Mr. Himmelwright came to California in 1902 and since then has alternated between the coast and the east, in various places, but the last eight years have been spent mostly in Mendocino county with the Van Arsdale estate. He became a partner in the Rex Drug Company at Willits, in November, 1913, since which time he has engaged with Mr. Duncan in the manufacture of the Rex remedies and in the management of an establishment ranking among the thoroughly modern drug stores of the county.

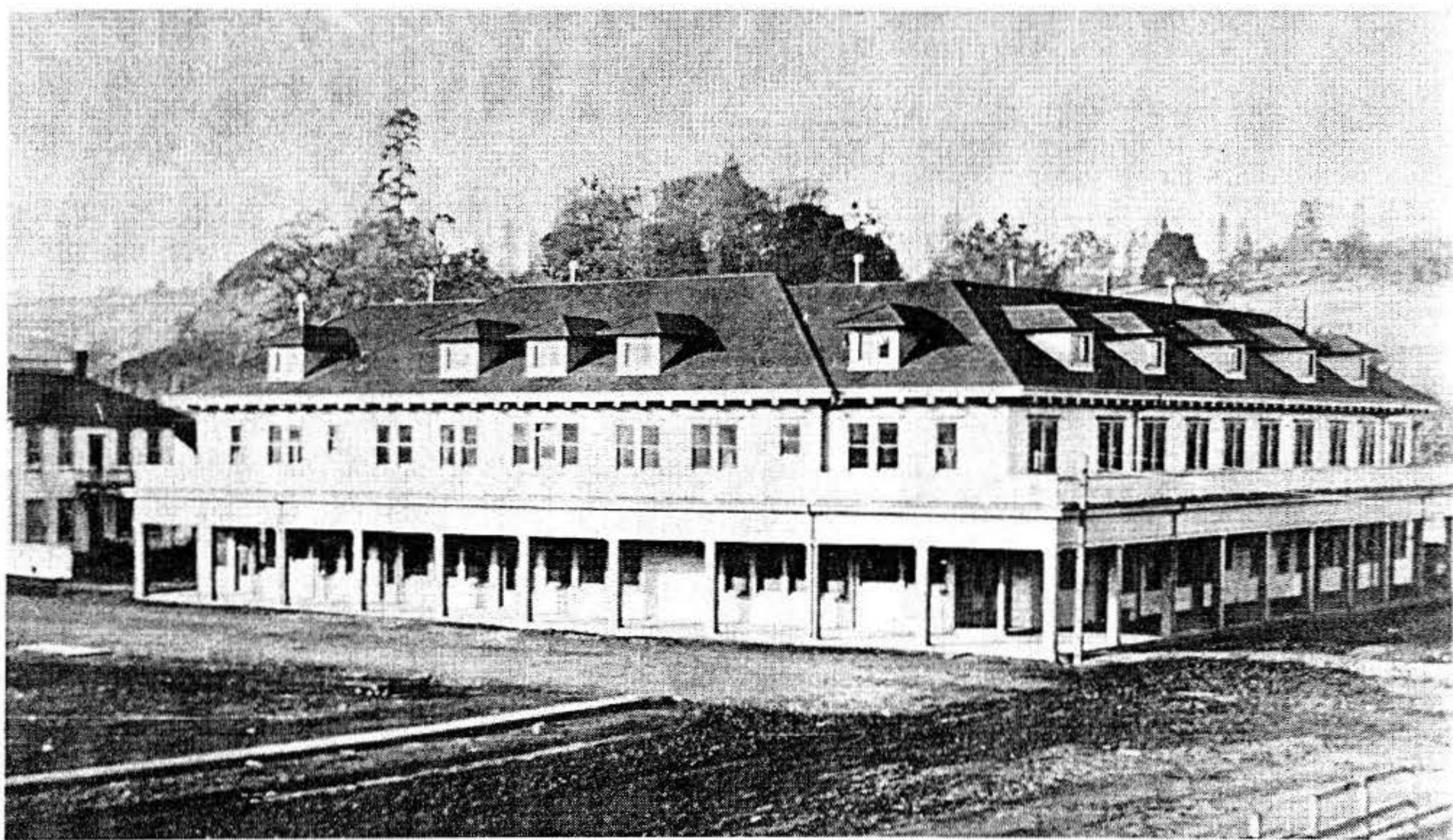
LAURANCE CLAY HOPPER. Various states of the middle west were made the home of the Hopper family at different times, but they were identified especially with Kentucky, and James B., son of John L., a Kentuckian who served in the Civil war was born at Bowling Green, that state, where during young manhood he engaged in general farming and stock-raising. A desire to see something of other sections of the country and a hope of bettering his condition led him to Missouri and to Adams county, Ill., later to Colorado, where he located with his family near Empire on Clear creek. Eventually he returned to Missouri, and settled in Linn county, where he at first engaged in the insurance business and afterward became a traveling salesman. Through his marriage to Louisa Foster, who was born in Iowa and died in Missouri, there were three children, the eldest of whom Laurance Clay, was born near Clayton, Adams county, Ill., November 21, 1876. At the age of fourteen years he became a cowboy on the plains of Kansas and Colorado, engaging to ride the range for a cattleman of Victoria, near Fort Hayes. During the year as cowboy he had many exciting and even dangerous experiences and enjoyed to the utmost the outdoor existence with its element of peril. A return to the routine of farming in Missouri proved tame and uninteresting, so that he was ready to embrace an opportunity to learn the business of an aeronaut with Uncle Tom Baldwin, at Quincy, Ill., where he made his first flight in June, 1893. Afterward he made descensions with parachute from gas and hot-air balloons. His travels took him to every part of the United States and gave him a thorough knowledge of conditions, so that he is exceptionally well informed in regard to the country. Being a skilled and efficient aeronaut, he went through some dangerous adventures unscathed and in his three or four falls received no serious injuries. At the time of the breaking out of the Spanish-

American war he was in Virginia and volunteered his services to the cause, becoming a member of Company C, Third Virginia U.S.V. Regiment. He served with the regiment until mustered out at the close of the war, when he returned to the balloon business. For some years after ceasing to make air flights, Mr. Hopper engaged in the street carnival business, and in that capacity visited many sections of the middle states and the south. During 1901 he came to California and found employment at Oakland in the office of the surveyor of Alameda county, where he remained until the earthquake, April 18, 1906. The falling of the Sherman and Clay building on Broadway and Thirteenth streets crushed in the St. Charles hotel, where he was sleeping. Seriously injured and with difficulty dragged from the ruins, it was three months before he had recovered sufficiently to resume work at any occupation. He then entered the store of Smith Bros., stationers, with whom he continued for a year and afterward returned to surveying. From Oakland he came to Willits to superintend the construction of the sewer system in the employ of the Vincent Construction Company, and later he filled the same position with the same concern at Newman. On the completion of the contract he returned to Willits and engages in cement and sewer contracting. December 12, 1910, he entered the employ of the Willits Water & Power Company as resident manager and superintendent of the water department which position he is filling with characteristic efficiency. In politics he votes with the Republican party. Fraternally he is identified with the Woodmen of the World. The unique and attractive bungalow which he erected on South Main street is presided over by his wife who was Miss Amelia F. Vega, a native of Tuolumne county, this state, and at the time of their marriage a resident of Fruitvale, Alameda county.

CHARLES A. IRVINE. No slight precedence as a business man of Willits is held by Charles A. Irvine, member of the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company, Incorporated, and an honored pioneer of 1859 in Mendocino county. Many states of this nation and many countries across the ocean have contributed to the upbuilding of California, and not the least of these is New York, which Mr. Irvine claims as his native commonwealth, his birth having occurred in Cohecton, Sullivan county, November 5, 1834. While his parents, William and Emily (Mitchell) Irvine, were both natives of Sullivan county the family is of English and Scotch-Irish descent, The grandfather, Charles Irvine, coming from the North of Ireland to Sullivan county, N.Y. The paternal great-grandfather, Oliver Calkin, and the maternal great-grandfather, Bezeleel Tyler, served in the Revolutionary war and fought in the Indian battle at Lockawaxen, in Sullivan county, the latter being killed while in command. William Irvine, the father of Charles A., was engaged in farming and lumbering, rafting down the Delaware, a hazardous undertaking particularly over the difficult rapids, and while he was manufacturing lumber at his saw-mill in Cohecton he always steered the raft himself. He spent his last days in Minnesota. Charles A. Irvine had the advantages of the public schools, afterward attended the Union Academy in Damascus, Pa., where he completed the course. He learned the lumber business with his father from a boy, and in 1852, when the family moved to Madison county, N.Y., he aided his father in the merchandise business, continuing there until 1857. The era of his young manhood was witnessing the numerical upbuilding of the west and the transformation of prairie land into cultivated farms. Attracted by hope of material advance, he joined the



Main Street, Willits. The Willits Hotel in rear background and Bob Dryden's livery stable on right foreground. Circa 1907.



The Willits Hotel opened March 23, 1902. It was torn down in February 1955. This hotel was described as having all the modern improvements except an elevator. It had 100 rooms, a six foot fireplace, a beautiful Redwood bar, and the finest dining room north of San Francisco.



The Buckner Hotel opened March, 1902. It was built on the same location as the original Little Lake Hotel. The 50 room hotel cost \$20,000. It was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake.



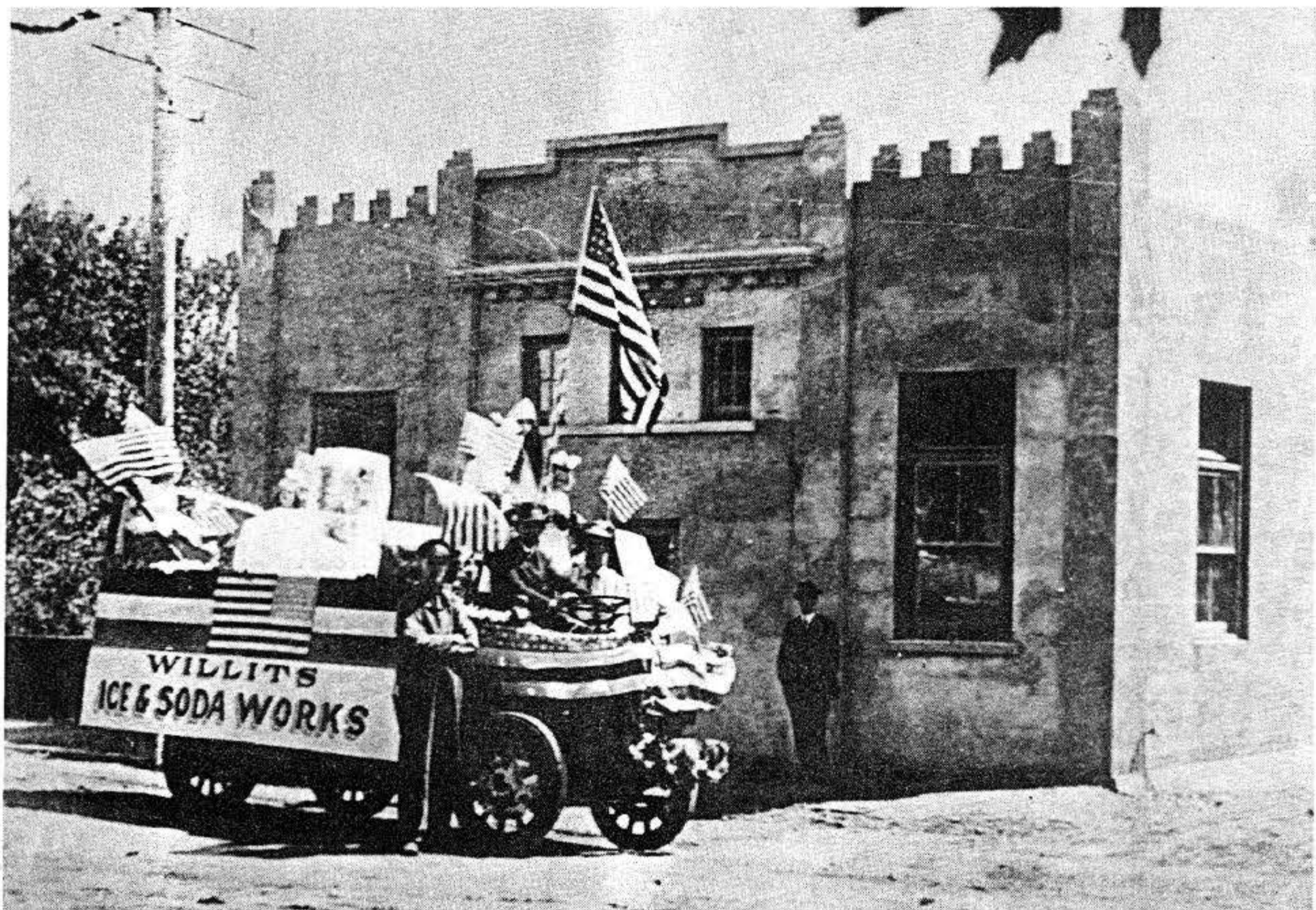
The Willits Commerical Bank was incorporated April 11, 1904. Capital \$50,000. W.A. Foster, President; J.W. Lilienthal, Vice President; W.H. Baechtel, Cashier; C. M. Walker Assistant Cashier.



The original Willits Store was purchased by Irvine and Muir in 1901, enlarged to three departments, and called the Willits Mercantile Company. In March, 1929 the company was sold to J. J. Keller, R. C. J. Ritschel, and E. E. Johnson.



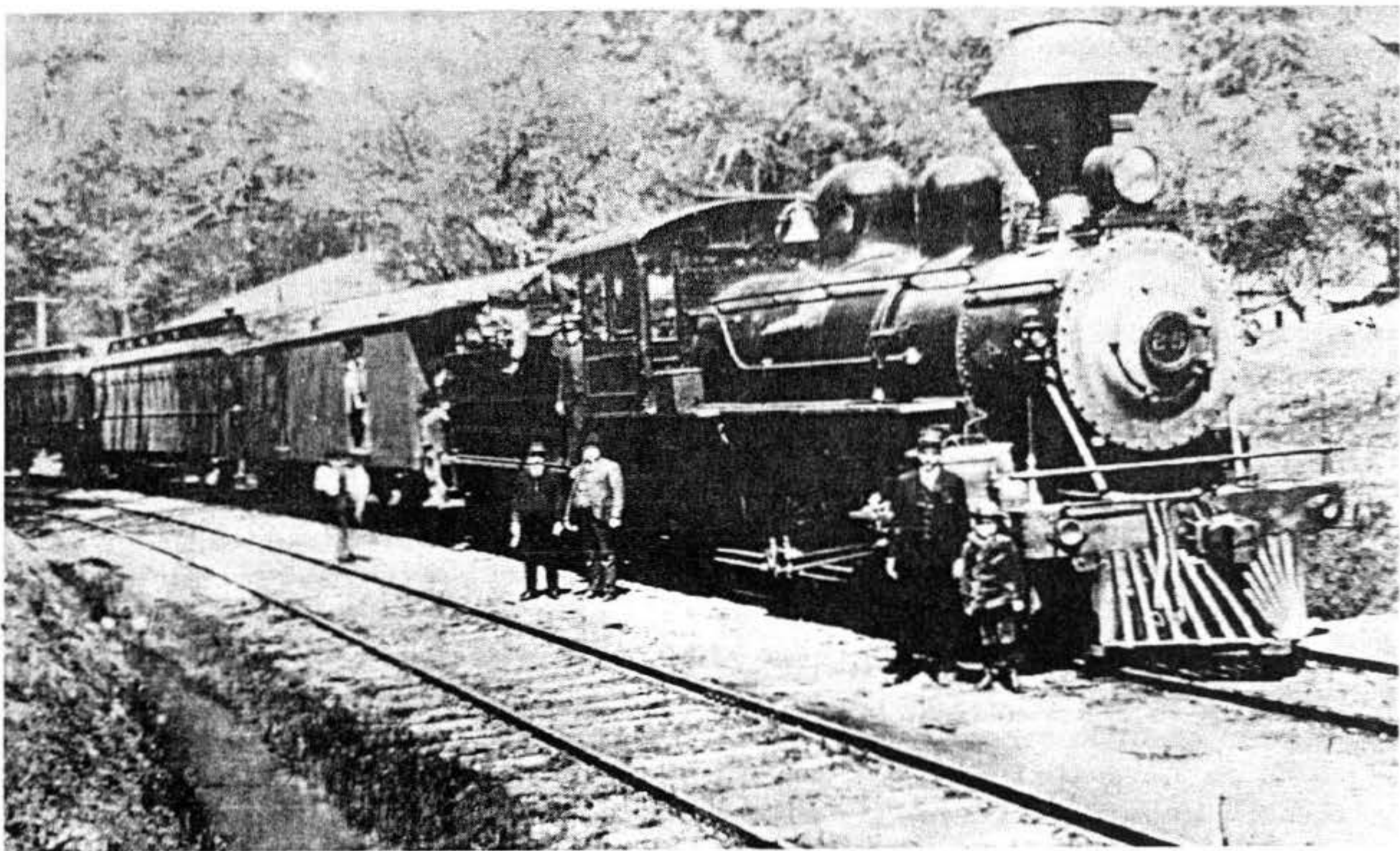
Joseph Schloegel's modern butcher shop in Willits.



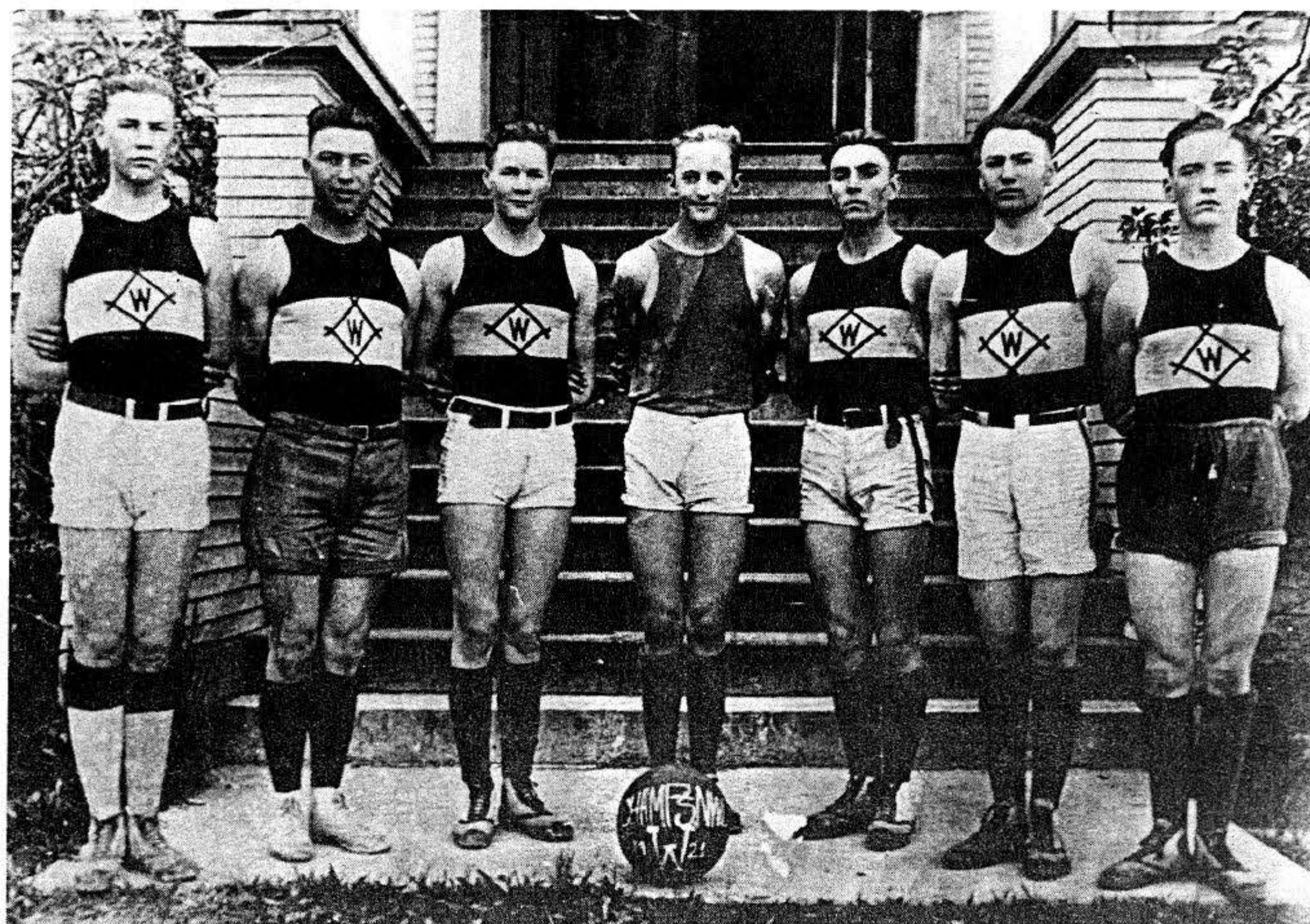
Fourth of July, 1915. The Ice and Soda Works building is shown in the background. This building is still used today.



Student body of the old Willits Pine Street Grammar School.



The railroad was completed to Willits in 1902. The engine shown here was built in 1902, by American. It was scrapped in 1934. The picture was taken at the Ridgewood Station at the top of Ridgewood grade. Circa 1903.



Willits High School Basketball teams, 1921. Willits Union High School was organized in 1904. In 1908, thirty thousand dollars was voted to build the first high school building. Prior to 1908, the school classes were held in the second floor of the Willits Mercantile Building. The high school building burned in 1928.

westward march of colonization and went to Iowa in 1857, but a brief sojourn in that state did not prove satisfactory on account of ague. In 1859 he started for Pike's Peak, but met so many returning that he decided to come on to California with his comrades. In this state he has since lived, with the exception of three years, 1863-66, when on account of his health he spent a protracted period in Minnesota where his father resided. Noyo, one of the first ports established in Mendocino county, and, indeed, one of the earliest north of San Francisco, had just been opened when Mr. Irvine landed there in 1859. A lumber company had inaugurated a large business and he easily found employment as bookkeeper in their office at the mouth of the Noyo river. There he remained until he went to Minnesota. On coming back to Mendocino county in 1867 he entered the employ of Simpson & White, merchants at Cahto, as a bookkeeper, which position he filled for ten years. Meanwhile, he served from 1874 to 1876 as county clerk and during that time maintained a home in Ukiah. Perceiving a favorable opening in the new town of Willits, in 1880, he came hither and here he still resides. The three decades and more of his identification with the town have been fruitful of large business enterprises and civic energy. From 1880 until 1882 he conducted a general store alone, but in the latter year he admitted to partnership Henry B. Muir. In 1887 he purchased the interest of his partner, to whom in conjunction with Samuel Baechtel, he sold out in the fall of the same year. From 1889 to 1891 he engaged in the real-estate business at Ukiah, from which place he went to San Francisco to engage in the commission business. Returning to Willits in 1896, he and Henry B. Muir again became partners in mercantile houses. During 1901 the business was incorporated as the Irvine & Muir Company and two years later, a lumber business having been added in 1902, the title was changed to the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company, under which name one of the largest mercantile houses of the county is now conducted. Included in the company's possessions are two mills and lumber tracts in the redwoods, one at Irmulco, eleven miles from Willits and one six miles southwest of town, as well as the department store, well stocked with goods of every description, which are displayed to customers by attentive and efficient clerks. Mr. Irvine has been secretary of the company since its organization. Besides his large holdings as a member of the lumber corporation, in 1884 he acquired the Simpson ranch of nine hundred acres near Blue Rock, and found pleasure in developing the same as a stock farm. In the furthering of his enterprises he has gained prestige as one of the substantial and representative men of this section of the state. As early as 1872 Mr. Irvine became connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he is still a member of Cahto Lodge, of which he is past grand. He was a charter member of San Hedrin Encampment at Ukiah, organized in 1875, of which he was past chief patriarch and is a member of the subsidiary order of Rebekahs. His fraternal associations are enlarged through membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Politically he is a Republican, his first presidential vote being cast for John C. Fremont, and he has been an active member of the county committee for many years. By his marriage to Sophronia Roosa, a native of Bethel, Sullivan county, N.Y., he is the father of three children, Mary Estelle, Mrs. R. I. Shimmin of Willits; Charles Alonzo, with the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company; and Emily, who married R. E. Shimmin.

THOMAS B. JOHNSON. Although the thrifty community of Willits has not long profited by the citizenship of Thomas B. Johnson, he is nevertheless securely launched upon its sea of political activity, and is acceptably filling the office of city marshal, to which he was duly appointed April 21, 1901. This office carries with it large responsibility, and in its duties requires a keen knowledge of human nature, as well as tact, patience and good judgment. These Mr. Johnson possesses in generous measure, his personal popularity aiding him in accomplishing many desired results. He is not an adept in the gentle art of making enemies, but on the contrary has the faculty of harmonizing unruly elements, his theories being reformative rather than harshly corrective. In his youth Mr. Johnson has the certain advantage of a farm training, for his parents, William and Nancy (Crane) Johnson, owned a fair-sized farm in Van Buren county, Iowa, where his birth occurred August 12, 1842. He arose early in the morning for many ears of his life, and his home tasks were not always completed with the setting of the sun. A rugged constitution resulted from muscular labor in the field, and for this he is infinitely grateful, as are all who appreciate the precious boon of health. At the age of twenty-one he branched out on his own responsibility and went to Montana, where he mined for two years, and then returned to his native state and county. Nevertheless, the memory of the freedom experienced in the west remained with him indefinitely, as is the case with majority who once wander towards the western sea. In 1890 he retired from farming and moved into Bonaparte, Iowa, and while there made arrangements to join his sister, Mrs. Hiram Willits, wife of the founder of this town, who was then living in lonely widowhood. He followed farming near here for about five years, or until his election to the difficult post of marshal of the town. Always in favor of the Democratic party, Mr. Johnson cast his first presidential vote for a Democratic candidate, and has since stanchly maintained the interests of the party. His first wife was Rebecca, daughter of Joseph F. Perkins, who was born in Iowa, her death occurring at the age of twenty-seven years. Mrs. Johnson left two children, of whom Hallie married Iowa Hunter and lives in Bonaparte, Iowa; and William Burton married Grace Davidson, and is associated with the Millbrae Dairy of San Francisco. For a second wife Mr. Johnson married Josephine, daughter of B. J. Whitmore, a native of Iowa, who died in 1894, at the age of forty-five years. Panzie, one of the daughters of this union, is a teacher in the schools of Mendocino county, and Maggie Meta died at the age of six months.

GEORGE CALVIN LEWIS. The youngest in the family of twelve children whose parents were Benjamin F. and Mary (Anderson) Lewis and the only one of the entire number to migrate to the Pacific coast, George Calvin Lewis was born at the old homestead near Bunker Hill, Berkeley county, W. Va., June 10, 1864, and became familiar with agricultural pursuits at an age when the majority of boys are free from responsibilities. As the elder children one by one started out to earn their livelihood in the world, he was left to assume more and more the management of the farm, whose cultivation he endeavored to promote in such a manner as to secure a livelihood for the remaining members of the family. From early youth he cherished an ambition to settle in the west, but it was not until 1891, at the age of twenty-seven years, that such a move was possible for him. Leaving the old home neighborhood he came alone to California and found employment at Fresno, whence after spending a year he re-

moved to Mendocino county. Since 1892 he has made his home and headquarters in or near Willits, where in that year on the 16th of November he married Miss Carrie McKinley, a native daughter of the county, born at Ukiah, educated in local schools and with a large circle of friends throughout the locality. During the early '50s her father, James McKinley, a Missourian by birth and parentage, came across the plains and settled in California. For a long period he and his wife, Sarah (Frost) McKinley, lived on a farm near Ukiah, but in 1884 they established a home in Willits, where he died in 1909, and where Mrs. McKinley is still living. After an efficient service of twelve years as foreman for Harley Bros. & Co., nurserymen, at Willits, Mr. Lewis then purchased his present home farm of fifty-five acres, situated one and one-half miles northeast of town, and here he has since made a specialty of raising potatoes. The soil is well adapted to the potato vine and he usually averages from seventy-five to one hundred sacks of spuds to the acre. Since coming on the farm he has been in the employ of the Northwestern Lumber Company at different times, but during the busy season on the farm he devotes his attention exclusively to the management of the crops. In his family there are four children now living, George Calvin, Jr., Walter, Vivian, and Georgia. One daughter, Virginia, died at the age of three years and four months. For a number of years Mr. Lewis served as school trustee in Little Lake district. The cause of free education has in him a firm advocate. He believes thoroughly in training the young for the responsibilities of life and favors any movement for raising the standard of education. Politically he votes with the Democratic party. In fraternal relations he is a Moose and a Mason, having been made a Mason in Willits Lodge, No. 365, F. & A. M., in which he is now Junior Warden. Both he and his wife are leading workers in the Willits Chapter, No. 314, Order of the Eastern Star, in which Mrs. Lewis is conductress. Not only in that organization, but also in general social circles, they are admired for their optimistic outlook on life, their broad humanitarianism and their sincere fidelity to every duty of citizenship.

WILLIAM LEWIS. One of the most successful and well known men of Willits is Mr. Lewis, who is one of California's native-born sons, having been born in Portwine, Sierra county, March 17, 1865. He is the son of Evan Lewis who was a sailor on the high seas and a native of Wales and who came around Cape Horn, located at San Francisco, and there married Lizzie Walters, a native of Wisconsin. Mrs. Lewis having passed away while living in Sierra county, Evan Lewis decided to locate in Lake county, and with his four children came to Lower Lake, where he engaged in teaming, up to the time of his death, which occurred at Adams Springs. In Lake county, William Lewis received his earlier education and when twelve years old he began to engage in teaming, being employed by his father. The first team he ever handled was one of six horses over the roughest mountain roads, but he became an expert teamster and driver, later driving logging teams at different mills in the county and many times had as high as seven and eight yoke or fourteen to sixteen oxen for a logging team. These ox teams would be strung out one hundred and twelve feet along the road and were hitched to a string of logs a quarter of a mile long. It necessitated great quickness of eye and decision coupled with tact and ability to handle these immense teams, but he was always successful even when driving the largest teams. To achieve his greatest success

it was always necessary to purchase only the finest animals and he was always particular in his choice, placing the fastest oxen as the leaders. Finally he purchased a team of leaders whose combined weight was 4400 pounds. In 1902 he took his outfit to Mendocino county where he did logging and heavy teaming for the Northwestern Redwood Company at Willits, then also for the mills in the Sherwood valley and later the Dickinson Mill on the Tomkiah river, and the Irvine Muir Lumber Company. In 1909 Mr. Lewis gave up the business of logging to engage in the transfer and general contracting business, buying the business of O. Cureton and Morgan Whitcomb, which he successfully and ably conducts until now he has the largest business of the kind in Willits. For his teaming he has two six-ton drays, his spans of horses weighing over three thousand pounds. He is also engaged in grading and leveling. Besides his residence property on Main street, he also owns a very valuable site of two hundred and forty feet on the same street where he has his large barns, models of their kind in the county. Mr. Lewis is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and Knights of the Maccabees, and is an ardent Democrat, entering into all political matters for the good of the community. He entered into marriage in Lake county with Betty Thompson, also a native of California and of their union there are two children, Vernoi and Blanche. For four years Mr. Lewis was a member of the board of trustees of the town of Willits and served his term faithfully and well. He is a very successful man, and it is due entirely to his own untiring and unceasing labors that his financial success may be attributed. Every person with whom he comes in contact forms for an everlasting respect.

JOHN LIND. The opportunities afforded by the United States and particularly by the west to young men of enterprise from other countries of the world find excellent illustration in the history of John Lind, who although he has been in the new world for very little more than a decade has risen to a position of trust and ranks among the experienced men in the lumber industry of Mendocino county. The son of Peter Lind, a farmer at Dalene, Sweden, he was born at the old home farm May 25, 1878, and passed all of his early life at the same place, being sent to the neighboring schools until he had completed the studies of the high school. Thereafter he continued at home as an assistant to his father in the tilling of the soil and care of the stock. Desiring better advantages than seemed possible in the old home neighborhood, he crossed the ocean to America during 1903 and at first sought Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand in Guthrie county. During May of 1905 Mr. Lind arrived in Willits, Mendocino county. At once he secured work in bucking lumber as an employe of the Northwestern Redwood Company. Desiring to learn the business in all of its details, he served under the head millwright at the company's mill and was so efficient that he soon rose to hold the position himself. Meanwhile there had come a longing to see again the familiar sights of Sweden, and in December 1910, he went back to the old home, where he spent several months among relatives and friends. The lure of the west drew him back to California, and at Willits, September 3, 1911, he was united in marriage with Miss Emma C. Svedberg, a native of Dalene, Sweden, and like himself a devoted member of the Lutheran Church. During 1912 he moved to Willits as an assistant of Mr. McClelland in the Northwestern Redwood Company's planing mill, and on the retirement of the superintendent

he was promoted to be planer-mill boss, a responsible position which he now fills with recognized efficiency.

FRED N. LORING. It has been the favorable fortune of the Willits News to come under the ownership of a practical printer, for Mr. Loring, who is a native of Minnesota, born in 1871 has been identified with the printing business ever since a youth of only fifteen, when he entered a local office to learn the trade. Through long experience and habits of painstaking care he has acquired a thorough knowledge of the occupation in all of its details and is well qualified to stand at the head of a popular and growing country newspaper. At the age of twenty, after five years of practical experience in composing rooms in his native commonwealth, he came to California, where for several years he worked as a journeyman in different parts of the state. The first interest acquired by Mr. Loring in a newspaper plant occurred in 1895, when he went to Lakeport and purchased one-half interest in the Lake county Bee, a popular paper that wielded considerable influence in its own locality. The experience gained on that sheet was of great benefit to him, but he found no financial profit in the undertaking. The opportunities of Mendocino county attracted him to this fertile stretch of country lying between the mountains and the ocean, and at first he settled at the inland hamlet of Covelo, where he started the Review, a small weekly paper, devoted to the news of the village and county. After three years in Covelo he removed to Willits in 1907 and purchased the News, which he consolidated with the Review, so that he is now the sole owner of the consolidation, known under the name of the Willits News. The circulation of the paper is now about one thousand and the editor maintains a job printing department, the receipts of which add to his income in a desirable degree. The printing establishment is modern in every respect and furnished with the latest equipments, so that the proprietor is in a position to turn out work promptly and satisfactorily. The paper dates its existence from September, 1903, and in 1911 absorbed the Little Lake Herald, which was started in March of 1901, the merger retaining the name of the Willits News. Fraternally Mr. Loring is a member of the Odd Fellows' Lodge and secretary of the blue lodge of Masons of Willits.

EUGENE McPEAK. The history of the McPeak family in America is indicative of that strong pioneer temperament which led the march of colonization from the Atlantic seaboard by successive steps across the continent to the Pacific coast. It was Henry McPeak who transplanted the name from North Carolina to Tennessee, where he settled on a plantation in Rutherford county and married Nancy Fain, a native of Virginia. In their young married life they became pioneers of Arkansas, where he developed a tract of wild land into a productive plantation. On that ranch, situated near Osceola, a son, Eugene was born March 4, 1837. From Arkansas the family crossed the line into Missouri during 1840 and settled on an unimproved tract of land thirty miles from the nearest school. There were two sons in the family, Eugene and Peter, the latter now a resident of Guerneville, Sonoma county, Cal. It was impossible for the boys to attend school owing to the great distance. Nor had they the advantage of education through contact with neighbors, for settlers were few and they were isolated to a degree uncommon even in that pioneer period. Fortunately, the mother was a woman of culture and had received an excellent education in an academy

near Murfreesboro, Tenn., so that she was able to instruct her sons in the public-school branches as well as impress deeply upon their consciousness the necessity of honor, integrity, and industry. The father died on the home farm near New Madrid, Mo., in 1848, and in 1852 the mother came to California, where she died at Willits at the age of seventy-five years. At the time of crossing the plains with an ox-team train, Eugene McPeak, then a rugged stalwart youth of fifteen years, was given the charge of the cattle, and he drove the herd all the way across the plains until they were sold to a trader at the sink of the Humboldt. Arriving at Placerville he found work. In 1854 he went to Plumas county and there and in Sierra county he engaged in mining with fair success until 1857, when he took up government land four miles west of Santa Rosa. With the aid of his mother he proved up on a tract, which he devoted to general farming and stock-raising. When that place was sold he bought three hundred and twenty acres in the same vicinity. The latter farm he operated until 1877, when he sold out and came to Little Lake valley, Mendocino county. Here he bought and improved a farm of two hundred and eighty acres five miles southeast of Willits. About sixty acres were put under cultivation to grain and hay, but the principal acreage was devoted to range for cattle, sheep and hogs. In 1910 he sold the farm and retired to Willits, where he owns an acre homestead on Humboldt street, with an irrigation plant for fruit and vegetables made possible by an electric motor of standard make. At Santa Rosa, Cal., June 19, 1870, Mr. McPeak married Miss Mary J. Norris, who was born in Bloomfield, Davis county, Iowa and came across the plains in 1859 with her parents, Charles and Martha (Harris) Norris, natives of Ohio. After successive temporary sojourns in Missouri and Iowa, Mr. Norris had decided to migrate to California and brought his family west with wagons and ox-teams as well as a drove of cattle. At the expiration of six months he landed in California and took up government land six miles from Santa Rosa, where he developed a farm and remained until his death. His widow is still a resident of Sonoma county. Of their seven children six are still living, Mrs. McPeak being the eldest of the number. For years she has been an earnest worker in the Christian Church, in the Rebekahs and in Willits Lodge No. 314, Order of Eastern Star. Together with Mr. McPeak she has been a capable worker in the interests of education and for twenty years served on the board of education in Whitcomb district. When the high school board was organized and the building erected, Mr. McPeak was a member of the board and his efficient services in that capacity covered eight years. For four years he was a member of the board of trustees of Willits and during two years of the time he was honored with the chairmanship. In politics he votes with the Democratic party. He was made a Mason in Lafayette Lodge No. 126, F. & A. M., at Sebastopol, and later became a charter member of Willits Lodge No. 365, F. & A. M., besides which he has been interested in the Eastern Star. The soul of honor in all the relationships of life, he has formed heart to heart links stretching out into a circle of friendships which encompass every locality in which he has lived. Everyone speaks well of his fine qualities of character. While his life has been quiet and unmarked by stirring events, it has been none the less very useful to his community. Through high principles of honor and generosity of soul he has stood foremost among the citizens pledged to the welfare of town and county and instrumental in promoting enterprises of permanent value to both.

STEPHEN BYRON MARTIN. The first call for volunteers in the Union army at the opening of the Civil war found Mr. Martin eager to respond. It is significant of the patriotic spirit of the family that not only he, but also five of his brothers, gave courageous service to their country in time of need. Previous to the Civil war he had lived principally in Illinois, where he was born near St. Mary's Mission, Edgar county, January 6, 1837, the third in order of birth in a family numbering nine children, seven sons and two daughters. The parents, Charles K. and Sarah (Basham) Martin, were natives respectively, of Breckinridge county, Ky., and Botetourt county, Va., and became early settlers of Illinois, where both remained until death. The spirit of patriotism possessed by the sons came as an inheritance from their father, who was a brave soldier in the Black Hawk war. Few advantages brightened for Stephen Byron Martin the drudgery of toil on the home farm in the years of his boyhood. At times he attended school in a cabin with a puncheon floor and slab benches, wholly destitute of equipment considered a necessity in schools of the present generation. At the outbreak of the Rebellion he was employed in Burlington, Iowa, and when the first call came for troops he enlisted under Captain Streator in Company E, First Iowa Infantry, for three months of service. During this time he took part in the battle of Wilson creek, where General Lyons was killed. After nearly four months of active service he was mustered out at St. Louis. Returning to Edgar county, two month later he volunteered in Company K, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and went to the front with the commission of first lieutenant. Among his principal engagements were those of Shiloh, Stone river and Chicamauga. After the last named battle he was detailed and placed in command of a guard of the First Ohio Infantry, whose officers had been captured by the enemy. Under his leadership the guard conveyed amunition from headquarters to Chattanooga and Chicamauga. In the battle of Stone river he had been wounded in the right side by a shell and after a time he became so troubled by the injury that in 1863 he resigned on account of physical disability. For some time after leaving the army he remained in poor health, but gradually overcame the effects of the wound and regained his former rugged physical condition. The following years were spent in Missouri and Kansas, where he had various unfortunate experiences in farming and met with not a little hardship and privation. Coming to California in 1885, Mr. Martin engaged in lumbering in Humboldt county. During 1887 he came to Mendocino county and took up timber land at Half-way House, where he remained until 1890. For ten years he operated a ranch eight miles northwest of Willits, and when he finally sold that property he retired from ranching and established his home in Willits. His marriage was solemnized in Holt county, Mo., and united him with Miss Jennie F. Minton, who was born and reared in that county, and is a woman of earnest Christian character and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her parents, John and Mary Ann (Noble) Minton, were natives, respectively, of Alabama and Pike county, Mo. The father, being taken from Alabama to Tennessee at an early age, removed from the latter state to Missouri in young manhood and settled in Franklin county on a farm, but afterward followed the same occupation in Holt county, where he died. His widow spent her last days with Mrs. Martin in California and died at the age of ninety-one. Mr. and Mrs. Martin were the parents of four children, three of whom attained maturity: Mrs. Daisy Viola Moore, of Willits; John Wes-

ley, also a resident of this town; and Clarence Byron, who remains with his parents. In fraternal relations Mr. Martin is a demitted Mason and a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, while in politics he is a Republican of progressive tendencies.

HARRY LINCOLN McELROY. It is not enough to say of Mr. McElroy that he is a leading contractor in Willits, for he has other interests so broad and so varied that he could not easily be limited to one line of enterprise. In addition to being interested in the local water company and being also founder of the Willits News, he has been a property owner and a promoter of movements for the permanent welfare of the village chosen as his home and business headquarters. Thorough information in regard to property valuations has enabled him to invest very profitably in town property as well as in country holdings, and in addition to these he was the builder and one-half owner of the Mohn & McElroy block, said to be one of the most attractive and substantial buildings in the entire county. Not for him has the path to success been strewn with roses. Privations and hampering conditions interfered with his progress and restricted his achievements, but he pushed forward with resolute courage in itself deserving of gratifying returns. Born in Canton, Stark county, Ohio, June 13, 1866, Mr McElroy is the son of Capt. William and Emma (Harding) McElroy. During the Civil war the father served in an Ohio regiment, rising from private to be captain of his regiment. In January, 1876, he brought his family to California and from that time until his death he followed farming near Lakeport, Lake county. His death occurred in Lakeport, 1913, while his wife had passed away five years previously. Of the eight children born to them seven are living and of these Harry L. is the eldest. As a boy he attended the schools of Canton and it was his privilege to attend the Methodist Episcopal Sunday-school there at the time when ex-President William McKinley was the superintendent. He was in his tenth year when he came to California and settled in Lakeport, in January, 1876. For some years he made it his custom to attend school in the winter season and work in the summer at any occupation that offered. During one season he drove the street sprinkler wagon in Lakeport, another season he worked in the grain fields and still another summer was devoted to work in a butcher shop. Meanwhile he had entered the Lakeport Academy and in 1886 he was graduated from that institution with a high standing. Immediately afterward he became an apprentice to the trade of carpenter, at which he served for three years under a brother-in-law, W. H. Lyons. Moving to Ukiah in 1889, he took up carpentering and mason work. Meanwhile, May 11, 1888, he had married Miss Addie May Lincoln, who was born in Boston, Mass., and by whom he had one son, Floyd Lester. After eighteen months in Ukiah he moved to Pendleton, Ore., living there thirteen months, during which time he had building contracts, but as he had taken them at prices far too low there was practically no margin of profit in them. Before moving his family to Pendleton he purchased at auction a claim to one hundred and sixty acres for \$590 and this he proved up on, but did not develop. Returning to Ukiah with only \$11 to show for his arduous labors in Oregon, Mr. McElroy followed the trade of carpenter for a time. During September of 1892 he moved to Riverside in Southern California and for nineteen months engaged in driving a delivery wagon for a butcher shop. Not satisfied with conditions and opportunities there he returned to Ukiah and took up work with F. M. Mason, a contractor and build-

er, for whom he continued at day wages through five years. In addition he contracted for himself during one year. Although he had bought property at Ukiah and had anticipated remaining in that town, the opportunities afforded at Willits caused him to remove to this village in 1901. Here he bought two lots and put up two store buildings, both of which, however, were destroyed by fire in the same year. For six months he engaged in the undertaking business with H. C. Mohn, to whom he later sold his share in the enterprise. On property purchased on Main street between Mendocino and Wood streets he built three stores opposite his other two stores. In one of the last stores erected he opened the first news depot in the town in 1903. Three years later he sold the business in order to devote himself to contracting and real-estate business. In the fall of 1913, in partnership with Harry Mohn he built the Mohn & McElroy block, on Main street between Commercial and Mendocino streets. This is a concrete fire-proof building 50 x 92 feet, the first floor being occupied by two stores and above is a modern lodging house. Mr. McElroy also owns several residences on Main street, in fact all of his holdings are on this thoroughfare except his residence, which is located at No. 44 Mendocino street. In religion Mr. McElroy is a Methodist. Politically he is a stanch Republican, but inclines to the progressive branch of that party in its recent developments. The people of Willits have the highest confidence in his energy as a citizen, in his uprightness as a man, and in his efficiency as a building contractor.

HENRY B. MUIR. The genealogical records of the Muir family indicate an identification with Scottish history through a long period of wars, revolutions and religious persecutions, and in eras of peace or of war they ever proved loyal to country and stanch in adherence to the cause of justice. With the early colonization of America the family found root in the new world, where several successive generations have been efficient contributors to national progress. Following the tide of migration toward the setting sun, one branch of the family was transplanted from Kentucky to Missouri and thence to California. The founder of the name in the far west, Presley T. Muir, was born in Kentucky in 1816 and during 1823 went to Missouri in company with other members of the family. To him belonged the distinction of helping to make the first brick ever manufactured in Kansas City. However, it was not to the brick industry, but to agriculture that he devoted his attention throughout life. Early in the '50s, attracted by reports concerning the mining and other opportunities of the west, Mr. Muir joined an expedition that crossed the plains to California. After a brief tour of inspection he returned to Missouri, only to return to the Pacific coast in 1856 with the intention of becoming a permanent resident. Settling in Eldorado county, he married there in 1857, engaged in mining and farming and became a man of some influence in the community. From that part of the state he removed to Solano county and remained for two years, thence came nearer to the ocean in Sonoma county, where he resumed general ranching. The fall of 1867 found him a newcomer in Mendocino county, where he leased land in the Coyote valley near Ukiah. The following year he changed his place of residence to Willits, where he secured a tract of raw land near the village and entered upon an honorable and influential association with the locality that terminated only with his death in 1887. For many years he served as a justice of the peace at Willits. Movements for the benefit of the county re-

ceived his staunch support and he was regarded as one of the most public-spirited citizens of the locality. The Grange and the Good Templars were organizations to which he was deeply devoted, yet he did not limit his activities to their growth; on the other hand, he was ever willing to aid any order or movement tending to the benefit of the people. His wife survived him for years, passing away in 1904. Born in Missouri, she bore the maiden name of Eliza Jane Baker and was the mother of ten children, namely: Henry B., who was born in Solano county, Cal., in 1859, and whose name introduces this article; Pressley, deceased; James L.; Mrs. Margaret E. McMacken; Austin J.; Mrs. Emma Rupe; William M.; Mrs. Iva De Camp; Mrs. Della Upp (deceased); and Lewis E. Although his birthplace was near Placerville, Eldorado county, the earliest recollections of Henry B. Muir are associated with Sonoma county, where his father was a leading farmer of Blucher valley. From the age of eight years he has lived in Mendocino county, where his connections with business enterprises have made him a citizen of great prominence and influence. During 1879 he entered the store of Lambert & Simonson at Willits. After seven months as a clerk he was admitted to the firm. During October, 1880, the business was sold to C. A. Irvine, with whom Mr. Muir continued for a few months in order to familiarize him with the business. Early in 1881 he removed to San Luis Obispo county, but not being pleased with prospects there he returned to Willits on New Year's of 1882 and on the first of February formed a partnership with C. A. Irvine, the two having continued together ever since. The business of Irvine & Muir was incorporated in 1891 and in 1903 it was merged into the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company, of which Mr. Muir has been president and general manager ever since its organization. This is one of the largest institutions in the county and carries on a general mercantile and lumber business, owning a department store at Willits, one at Potter Valley and a third at Irmulco, besides owning a controlling interest in the Round Valley Commercial Company at Covelo. In addition the firm owns a large sawmill at Two Rock near Willits and another at Irmulco and their plants turn out large quantities of lumber, tan bark and split timber. Muir has organized a number of successful companies, in addition to that of the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company, admittedly one of the most flourishing institutions in this part of the state. Associated with Messrs. Sam and Martin Baechtel in 1887 he organized the H. B. Muir Company. During 1894 he formed a partnership with F. M. Mason of Ukiah, lumber business, and in general contracting for two years, at the expiration of which period the partnership was dissolved. During 1899 Mr. Muir promoted the organization of the Needle Rock Company, of which he was chosen the first president and has since been the only incumbent of that office. Since 1905, when he organized the Sunset Trading and Land Company, he has been president of the concern, which deals in tan bark and also engages in the buying and selling of land. In addition he was one of the incorporators of the Eel River Power and Irrigation Company, the name of which was later changed to the Snow Mountain Water and Power Company. When a movement was started looking toward the establishment of a new bank in Ukiah he interested himself in the project and when the Commercial Bank came into existence he was promptly chosen vice-president of the institution, which office he now fills, besides being a member of the board of directors. He is interested in the promotion of the Little Lake Land Company for the purpose of buying and sub-dividing Mendocino lands, in which success has

been achieved to a remarkable extent; also in the Willits Telephone & Telegraph Company, which built and now owns the telephone system in Mendocino county north of Willits. This company was organized for the purpose of furnishing facilities to the citizens in northern Mendocino county at cost, as all profits above six per cent are used in extending and improving the system. Interest in the development and progress of Willits led him to accept the office of town trustee and in that capacity he proved as painstaking, resourceful and efficient as in the management of his private business affairs. In fraternal relations he has been identified with Willits Lodge No. 365, F. & A. M., Willits Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. By his marriage in 1883 to Miss Emma Hargrave, a native of Mendocino county, three children were born, but the only survivor is Ora E., wife of Max Thelen of Berkeley, a member of the California state railroad commission.

IRA ORDWAY. With the year 1876 the Ordway family became represented in California, for at that time P. D. Ordway, a native of Vermont came to the west in search of a suitable location and after a temporary sojourn in Santa Clara valley settled permanently in Santa Cruz county. There his son, Ira, was born in 1879, and there he received a public-school education. When fourteen years of age he began to ride the range as a cowboy in the employ of his older brothers. In a short time he became so familiar with the cattle business that he was able to buy and sell with judgment and profit. His first interests in that line of business were with his brothers, Adolph and Edward. In order to select his stock with care and to make the best bargains possible, he frequently was called into Southern California and the San Joaquin, Sacramento, Salinas and Santa Clara valleys, as well as into different portions of the northern coast counties. Such widely extended travels gave him a thorough knowledge of the state and its resources, as well as qualifying him to judge stock with accuracy and skill. Indeed, it is said that his judgment of stock of all kinds is seldom at fault. As early as 1898 Mr. Ordway brought cattle from the dry country into Mendocino county, where he and his brothers found pasture and water in abundance. During 1902 they shipped from Ferndale into the Sacramento valley. His brother, Adolph, is now engaged in the cattle business for himself, with headquarters at Newman, Stanislaus county, while Edward, now located at Fort Bragg, is a partner of Ira, who makes his home in Willits. The latter in 1906 entered the employ of the Noyo Land and Cattle Company at Fort Bragg, and has continued with the same concern up to the present time, although in addition he buys and sells hogs in partnership with his brother, Edward. The two brothers incorporated the Little Lake Meat Company with Edward as president and Ira as manager, and the younger brother actively superintended the market at Willits until his other affairs began to require all of his attention, since which time he has given the market only a general supervision. The marriage of Ira Ordway was solemnized at Salinas, this state, January 22, 1906, and united him with Miss Ethel Seelye, a native of Santa Cruz county and a daughter of John Seelye, who in the early days came from Maine to the Pacific coast, settling in Santa Cruz county. Excellent educational advantages were enjoyed by Mrs. Ordway in her girlhood. From early childhood she has been a communicant of the Episcopal Church. Since receiving the franchise she has joined with her husband in giving allegiance to Republican principles of the progressive type. Their family numbers four

children, Anna, Kent, Lila and Oliver. Of a pleasing personality, Mr. Ordway is popular in the Woodmen of the World and has been active in the local camp of the order. From boyhood he has given himself wholly to one line of work, and being quick, energetic and efficient, he has gained a knowledge of the cattle and hog business probably surpassed by few men in the county.

FRANCISCO PERSICO. The necessitous circumstances that surrounded the early years of Francisco Persico formed a stimulus to hard work and laid the foundation for successful effort. A native of the province of Genoa, Italy, he was born at Varezelligore, December 22, 1875, and from the age of six years was forced to make his own way in the world. To obtain a good education was an impossibility, but in the great school of experience he learned lessons of self-reliance and perseverance of inestimable value to his later enterprises. Shortly after his marriage to Julia Petronave, a native of the same village as himself, he entered the Italian army as a private in the First Mountain Artillery Regiment and served for three years, receiving an honorable discharge at the expiration of his time. Immediately afterward he and his family started for California and early in 1899 arrived at Old Sonoma, where he secured work as a gardener. Fourteen months later he removed to San Rafael, Marin county, where he continued for nine months as a gardener. It was on the 26th of March, 1899, that he left Italy, and on the 15th of March 1902, he arrived in Willits, where since he has made his home and business headquarters. After a period of employment on construction work with the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, during which time he was promoted to be foreman, Mr. Persico resigned and embarked in freighting and teaming with a four-horse team. While thus occupied he bought an interest in a liquor store with A. Figone, to whom he later sold out and about the same time he sold his teaming outfit. For two years afterward he engaged in business with Jimmie Frardy. By fire during September of 1905 he lost the house which he and his wife had struggled bravely to buy and furnish, but since then he has been prospered in other directions and now ranks among the well-to-do men of his town. In 1908 he purchased the Italian hotel at Willits, which he conducted for three years. Having bought a lot on Main near Mendocino street, 39½ x 150 feet in dimensions, in the fall of 1911 he built the New Italia hotel with forty-seven guest rooms and this has since developed into a very large hotel enterprise, the success of the venture representing his wise management and comprehensive supervision. Since becoming a citizen of our country he has voted with the Republican party. At this writing he holds the office of deputy constable and deputy city marshal. Fraternally he is connected with the Druids. In his family there are four children, the eldest of whom, Louisa, is the wife of Primo Vintorelle, of San Francisco. The three sons, Charles, Leandro and Peter, are pupils in the Willits schools.

GIOVANNI QUATERONI. The Commercial hotel of Willits is known from one side of the county to the other not only for its excellent service and its fine meals, but principally for its genial, big-hearted host, Mr. Quarteroni, who is a native of Italy, having been born in Lombardi April 8, 1873. Receiving his earlier educational training in the schools of Lombardi, he later located in St. Gallen, Switzerland, where at the age of sixteen he became apprenticed to the machinist's trade in the iron works located there. Com-

pleting the apprenticeship he followed his trade for a number of years. He decided to come to America and in 1901 came directly to California and located in Gualala where he engaged in lumbering until 1903. Then he came to Willits and was in the employ of the Northwestern Redwood Company for seven years. Relinquishing this position he became the proprietor of the Italia Europa hotel on Main street where he was very successful and acquired a good business. This hotel becoming too small for the amount of trade, in 1914 he erected a large new hotel of fifty-foot frontage on Commercial street, near the depot and opened the present popular Commercial hotel, one of the finest, if not the largest hotel in the city. Modern in every way, it is the pride of Willits. Mr. Quateroni still continues to own and manage the Italia Europa hotel on Main street and is a very successful business man. He is a member of the Eagles and the Druids and is a past master in both lodges. Politically a staunch Republican, he is always ready to favor any ideas of the local party that pertain to the good of the city. He married in St. Gallen, Switzerland, Asunta Stephani, a native of Austria, and of their marriage, there are three children, Louis, Hugo and Ferdinand, all sturdy boys and the pride of their parents. Mr. Quateroni is a very enterprising and liberal man, always seeking new improvements for his hotels in Willits. He is well liked in the community and is always up-to-date in his business methods.

JAMES BUCHANAN ROGERS. The old-time sturdiness of a race of pioneers stands out pre-eminently among the attributes of this early settler in Mendocino county. A resident of Willits and vicinity since 1876, he claims Missouri as his native commonwealth and was born near St. Joseph, November 22, 1856, being a son of N. P. and Sarah J. (Baker) Rogers, natives respectively of Holt and Atchison counties, Mo. When scarcely more than a mere lad the father started out to make his own way in the world and a search for cheap lands took him to Buchanan county, of which he was among the earliest settlers. Securing a desirable tract, he began the task of clearing and cultivating the land. For many years he labored incessantly in the work of improving the farm. As his sons became old enough to assist each in turn took up the burden of trying to advance the family prosperity. Finally, however, two of the sons decided to try their fortunes in the west. The course of their journey brought them to Mendocino county and they sent back favorable reports concerning Willits and vicinity. Determining to join them here, the father disposed of his property in Missouri and brought his family to California, where he continued to make his home in Mendocino county until his death in 1905. Meanwhile he served both as constable and deputy sheriff and for five years held a responsible position as steward at the county hospital near Ukiah. During his last years he engaged in farming near Willits and since his death his widow, now seventy-six (1914) years of age, has continued at the old homestead having still with her the two youngest children, Mollie and Robert F. The eldest son, Henry, is employed as engineer at the state hospital in Mendocino county. Mary died at seven years of age. The other sons are as follows: Hiram J., deceased; Newton Jasper; Benjamin Lee, deceased; and James Buchanan. The last named was with twenty years of age at the time of coming to California. Immediately on his arrival he secured work in the redwoods. For fifteen years he spent much of the time at such employment, meantime investing his earnings in land. The purchase of a ranch of three hundred and forty-three acres one and

one-half miles west of Willits, in partnership with his father, gave Mr. Rogers his first personal participation in the development of his own property and, while continuing his work in the woods, he found time for the management of a flock of sheep. When these were sold he engaged in raising hogs and cattle, having the land well fenced so that stock could be pastured in different fields. Some of the tract has been in hay, which is cut and fed to the stock. For years he has made a specialty of buying, feeding and selling cattle. Naturally such an enterprise has its share of risks. At times profits have been large, while there have been seasons of low markets when the stock was handled at a loss; but taken altogether he has found the cattle-fattening business fairly remunerative. On the organization of the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company he bought stock in the concern and has since been connected with the same. Since 1904 he has made his home in Willits, superintending the ranch from here, and continuing to devote his attention largely to its supervision. Politically he votes with the Democratic party, but has never desired office nor been a partisan in any sense of that word. At Willits during 1901 he married Mrs. Emma J. (English) Muir, a native of Bates county, Mo., but reared and educated in Sonoma county, Cal. When she was a mere infant she lost her mother by death and shortly afterward she was brought by an uncle and family across the plains to Sonoma county, to be placed in the care of her father, who had preceded other members of the family to Blucher valley. During girlhood she became the wife of Jeremiah F. Muir, a half-brother of Henry Muir and a stockman of San Luis Obispo county at the time of their marriage, but later a rancher of Mendocino county, where he died. Personally Mr. and Mrs. Rogers possess strong traits of character. Honor and integrity they prize above worldly possessions. Considerate and thoughtful of others, just in every business transaction, they have won the friendship of the people of their community and are held in high esteem wherever known.

HORACE D. ROWE. A man of unlimited enterprise, practical and progressive, Horace D. Rowe of Willits, has led an active life, with numerous and varied interests. For many years associated with the railway service of our country, he became familiar with all parts of the Union, from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south, and from its eastern confines to the broad Pacific. Since coming to Mendocino county he has made a specialty of buying and improving tracts of land in this part of the country hitherto considered of little value excepting for their natural growths of wood, or for grazing purposes, showing conclusively to the interested beholder that not an acre of land in this part of the country but can be made to yield an abundance of valuable products. A native of Keeseville, Essex county, N. Y., he was born September 23, 1848, on the shores of Lake Champlain, being a son of Norman N. and Arlina (Briggs) Rowe. Brought up a farmer's son, he attended the summer and winter terms of the district school, and while yet a young man began life as a railway employe, while in that service visiting thirty-two states of the Union, traveling in Mexico, and assisting in building the canal from Lachine, Canada to Montreal. In 1883, wishing to test the sunny climate of the Golden state, he came to Santa Clara county, and a few days after his arrival bought a ranch, to which he added such excellent improvements that at the end of four months he sold it at an advance of \$500. After a second and third like experience, he concluded that he had found

a business that might be followed with profit. Going, therefore, to Shasta county, he bought a farm, which he soon sold at an advantage, having by a little extra labor and judgment added to its original value. Coming to Mendocino county in 1884, Mr. Rowe bought of George W. Disher four hundred and seventy acres of land lying about six miles north of Willits. Three hundred and fifty acres of the tract were covered with fine redwood timber, fir and tan oak, the remainder being a sheep range. Although forced to run in debt for the property, Mr. Rowe perceived an excellent opportunity for making money from his purchase. Erecting a large house, some cottages and two barns, he threw open to the public Rowe's wayside inn, with the aid of Mrs. Rowe establishing a summer resort that was well filled during the tourist season, and was at all times finely patronized. He established an orchard and vineyard, setting out four hundred fruit trees and five hundred grape vines, in addition to which he raised all of his garden products for table use. Although he cut but little timber, he was soon out of debt, and had money to loan. Cutting one of the giant redwoods that stood near his hotel Mr. Rowe found that its rings showed a growth of seven hundred and twenty years. It was one hundred and eighty feet long from the stump, and after selling \$101 worth of lumber from it made a half mile of picket fence from the remainder, besides which he cut kindling wood enough to last four years, and in the top of the tree had left at least twenty cords of wood. Disposing of hotel and farm for a satisfactory figure, in 1902, Mr. Rowe purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, known as the G. Middleton ranch, which lies about three miles east of Willits, in Little Lake valley. In this estate there are thirty acres of timber, the remainder being farming and grazing land. He has since bought four hundred and eighty acres of adjoining pasture land, merging the whole tract into one large ranch, which, with the excellent improvements that he is now adding, will soon be one of the most valuable and desirable farms in this valley. He has already established a fine dairy, is raising garden produce and grain, has set out an orchard and vineyard, and is putting in a variety of nut trees, hoping that they will thrive here. Mr. Rowe married Mrs. Mary E. (Laird) Sanburn, a widow, whose only child by her first marriage is Mrs. Mabel (Sanburn) Beard, wife of R. F. Beard, by whom she has one child. Mr. and Mrs. Rowe are the parents of four children, namely: Cassius M., Horatio D., Hattie E., and Luther B. Mr. Rowe is a member of Masonic fraternity.

JOHN MATTHEWS RUPE. The discovery of gold in California was the attraction that brought the Rupe family from their Missouri home to the then unknown west. During the summer of 1849 James Rupe acted as captain of an expedition of emigrants and in the same party was his son, John, a youth of almost eighteen, whose birth had occurred in Jefferson City, Mo., November 8, 1831. The journey was one of deep interest to the lad who had not before been out of his native commonwealth and who was keen to learn and quick to observe conditions in the remote region to which he came. Trying his luck in the mines and meeting with reasonable success, he finally acquired sufficient funds to begin farming, his chosen vocation, so in 1853 he purchased land at San Juan, then in Monterey, but now in San Benito county, and there his son John M., was born March 5, 1865. Eventually he left San Benito county for the underdeveloped regions further north along the coast. On the 7th

of July 1882, he and his family arrived in Mendocino county, he and his family arrived in Mendocino county, where he bought the old Sawyer place, an improved ranch of two hundred and fifteen acres in the south end of Little Lake valley. However, five years later he sold all of his interests in California and returned to Missouri, where he bought farm land and was prospered in agricultural enterprises. His death occurred in Admire, Lyon county, Kans., in 1899, at the age of sixty-eight years. His wife, Elizabeth (Matthews) Rupe, was born in Louisiana and came to California via Panama with her parents in 1851, dying in Los Angeles in 1903. From the arrival of the family in Mendocino county until the return of his father to his native commonwealth, John M. Rupe aided on the home ranch. Under an elder brother, R. W., he learned the art of cheese-making and also became an expert in the manufacture of butter, so that when in 1889 he leased the De Camp ranch of a thousand acres he was prepared to specialize in cheese and butter. For twelve years he remained on the ranch and during ten years of the time he engaged in cheese-making. During 1900 he bought seventy acres one and a half miles east of Willits and by subsequent purchase he increased the size of the farm to one hundred and seventy-five acres, forming his present homestead. The entire tract is valley land under cultivation and embraces a fertile acreage capable of producing large and remunerative crops. For convenience in the care of his hay the owner bought a baling machine and this he operates throughout the valley, baling hay for the farmers as their needs render necessary. Aside from hay and grain he makes a specialty of raising potatoes, some of the land being sediment soil which has been proven well adapted for potatoes, beets and carrots. The potatoes yield from eighty to one hundred and twenty-five sacks of marketable product to the acre. All these years he has owned a dairy of high grade Jerseys, and is raising Percheron horses, for which purpose he, with others, purchased an imported Percheron stallion, "Raumaur." December 29, 1889, Mr. Rupe was united in marriage in this valley with Miss Emma Alice Muir, who was born in Little Lake valley, Mendocino county, the daughter of Pressley T. and Eliza J. (Baker) Muir, natives of Missouri who were pioneers of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Rupe became the parents of ten children, of whom there are seven living: Alva Esther, a graduate of Willits high school and the Willits private normal school, now engaged in teaching; Ernest Richard, attending Willits high school; Floyd P., Madge Elizabeth and Luther Muir, all attending the grammar school; and George Allen and Helen Eliza. The children are bright, capable and promising, and to give them every opportunity in preparation for life's duties is the chief ambition of their parents. Mr. Rupe has always been greatly interested in the cause of education and aside from being a member of the local school board he served as a member of the board of trustees of the high school district for two terms, being a member during its organization and the erection of the new high school building. The political views of Mr. Rupe bring him into affiliation with the Republican party, but he is not in the strict sense of the word, a politician nor a partisan. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is past officer, and with his wife is a member of the Rebekahs. Mr. Rupe has for many years been an active member of the Baptist church and its societies, being a member of the board of trustees.

DAVID LEANDER SAWYERS. Southern lineage is indicated by the Saw-

yers genealogy. Born, reared, and married to Elizabeth King in Kentucky, Thomas Sawyers moved from that state to Missouri, where his wife died. In Clark county, Mo., June 5, 1850, he married Peggy Hay, a Virginian by birth, but from childhood a resident of Missouri. The discovery of gold had aroused a deep interest in the Pacific coast country and Mr. Sawyers was one of the thousands attracted to the west by its alluring promises to settlers. May 3, 1854, accompanied by his wife and two children, he started from the old Missouri home with ox-teams, wagons, provisions and other necessities of the long overland trip. The tedious journey came to an end September 30, of the same year, with the arrival of the family in Grass valley, Nevada county, Cal., and at Rough and Ready, a prominent mining camp of the period, a son, David Leander, was born November 6, 1855. When this child was a year old the family removed to the vicinity of Petaluma, where Mr. Sawyers bought a claim and proved up on the same. Three times he was forced to pay for the four hundred acres included in the claim and even then he lost the property through later proof of the tract belonging to a large land grant. Forced to seek a new location, he brought his family to Little Lake valley, Mendocino county, January 31, 1857, and at once purchased one hundred and sixty acres one and one-half miles southeast of the present site of Willits. So sparsely settled was the country at the time that Mrs. Sawyers was the third white woman to establish a home in the valley. Farming and stock-raising were conducted upon an extensive scale and the original tract was enlarged through purchase until the home ranch finally embraced about one thousand acres. With all of the labor involved in the management of so large a stock ranch, Mr. Sawyers found time for educational, religious, civic and fraternal associations and for years was regarded as one of the leading citizens of the community, an influential Democrat, a deacon and trustee in the Baptist Church and a generous promoter of the public school system in the valley. Through the various degrees in Masonry he rose to the thirty-third, which was conferred upon him during a trip made for that purpose to Glasgow, Scotland. His death occurred at the ranch on Christmas of 1879. For many years he was survived by his wife, who passed away at Willits January 18, 1914. Of their seven children the two eldest were born in Missouri, namely: Marshall N., now of Ukiah; and Mrs. Annie O. Simonson of Willits. The others are natives of California, namely: David Leander, whose home is at the head of Redwood avenue in Willits; Mrs. Fannie Hicks, of Santa Barbara; and Wade Hampton, of Fresno; George Edwin, of Santa Barbara; and Robert L. of Willits. The earliest memories of David Leander Sawyers are associated with Little Lake valley. On reaching man's estate he became manager of the homestead and continued there until 1879, when at the age of twenty-four he embarked in general contracting for the building of roads in Mendocino county. Since then he has built many roads both in mountains and in valleys. Among his contracts were those for roads over Redwood mountain, from Hardy to Juan creek, from Sherwood to Fort Bragg, twenty-three miles down the Eel river for the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, a portion of the state highway and numerous other important projects. Meanwhile until quite recently he engaged in farming and stock-raising on the old Baechtel ranch, but this enterprise has been sold in order that he might devote his attention wholly to road building. The marriage of Mr. Sawyers and Miss Sarah E. Whited was solemnized at Willits November 5, 1876, and resulted in two children, the daughter being Mrs.

Fannie Belle Rogers, of Willita; the son, Louis D. is an assistant of his father in the contracting business. Mrs. Sawyers was next to the youngest among the seven survivors in a family that originally numbered twelve children, whose parents, Doc Anderson and Sarah (Bishop) White, on coming to California purchased the first through tickets sold from Burlington to Sacramento over the Central Pacific Railroad. The family settled on a ranch in Little Lake valley, Mendocino county, where both Mr. and Mrs. Whited remained until death. The latter was a Virginian by birth and a member of an old southern family. In politics Mr. Sawyers votes with the Democratic party. Besides two terms as city trustee he has served several terms as a member of the board of education. Well known in fraternal activities he has been connected with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Woodmen of the World. In 1876 he was initiated into Willits Lodge No. 277, I.O.O.F., in which he has officiated as noble grand and representative to the grand lodge. In Masonry he is identified with Willits Lodge No. 365, F.&A.M. For some years he has been interested in the work of the Rebekahs, in which Mrs. Sawyers is past noble grand and ex-district deputy, being a leading worker in the order and well posted in its ritual observances. Besides being one of the most prominent Rebekahs in the county she is keenly interested in religious work and has been identified for years with the Baptist Church at Willits, a generous assistant in its charities and a promoter of its missionary movements.

MOUNTJOY KING SAWYERS. Next to the youngest of six children Mountjoy King was born in Missouri to Thomas and Mary Elizabeth (King) Sawyers July 30, 1835. His early youth and school years were spent with his grandfather in Kentucky. He was grieved by his mother's death in 1842, and by the death of two older brothers in 1843. On June 5, 1850, his father married Margaret Hay. Also, in 1850, his grandfather died and Mountjoy returned home to help on the farm. In the fall of 1853, his father sold the farm and by May 3, 1854, the family had joined a wagon train enroute to California. While crossing the plains, Pawnee Indians attacked the train near the Platte River, wounding a sister slightly, with an arrow, and killing eleven head of oxen. On September 30, 1854, they arrived in Grass Valley, Nevada County, and worked several months at Rough and Ready, a prominent mining camp. While there, a half-brother to Mountjoy, David Leander, was born November 6, 1855. Both brothers were destined to become leading citizens of Little Lake Valley. In the early fall of 1856, Thomas Sawyers moved the family to the vicinity of Petaluma, California, purchasing 400 acres; but subsequently lost it, as it was a part of a large land grant. This disappointment led them northward to sparsely settled Little Lake Valley, which Mountjoy had previously visited in 1857. Here the family located one and one-half miles southeast of the present site of Willits on January 31, 1858. Successful in farming and stock raising, Thomas Sawyers soon owned several hundred acres in the south end of the valley. He was active in religious, civic and fraternal organizations, an influential Democrat, a promoter of the public school system, and a deacon and trustee of the Baptist Church. He achieved the thirty-third degree in Masonry and traveled to Glasgow, Scotland to receive it. He gave adjoining parcels of his land for a school and a cemetery. The family's two story home was situated across the road from the present entrance to Little Lake Cemetery. Thomas

died on Christmas Day, 1879. His wife, Margaret, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ole Simonson (Martha Ann Sawyers), January 18, 1914. At age twenty-four, David Leander, third child of seven born to Thomas and Margaret (Hay) Sawyers, was an established road building contractor, also quite active in civic and fraternal affairs. On November 5, 1876, he married Sarah Whited, sister of Mountjoy's wife. A younger brother, Marshall Ney, married a third sister, Thursa Whited. Mountjoy King, always interested in the study of history, especially church history and the origin of its various denominations, united with the Baptist Church in February, 1866, and became an ordained minister in 1873. In the 1870's, ministers were known as Elders and Elder Sawyers was a splendid type of consecrated pioneer preacher. One of the fine leaders in the Clear Lake Baptist Association (now Redwood Empire Association), his name appeared in almost every session's activities for forty years. On March 1, 1871, he married Hester Ann Whited, who assisted him admirably in his church duties. To this union were born: Murvin Lee, who married Millie Bahn; Thomas Harvey, who married Ida Allingham; Dora Luzena (Winans), who married Francis Henry; Daisy May, who married Robert Cook; and Sarah Ann (Standlee) who married Chesley Sidwell. Mountjoy died November 1, 1915. His wife lived until December 28, 1925. Their progeny are numerous. Many are residents of the area today, contributing to its progress in the selfless fashion which is their heritage.

MURVIN LEE SAWYERS. Eldest of five children born to Hester Ann (Whited) and Rev. Mountjoy King Sawyers, lived in Little Lake Valley nearly all his life. He was born January 14, 1872 on the farm purchased by his grandfather, Thomas Sawyers, upon arrival in the valley in 1858, after having crossed the plains from Missouri. His brothers and sisters are: Thomas Harvey, who married Ida Allingham, Dora Luzena (Winans), who married Francis Henry, Daisy May, who married Robert Cook' and Sarah Ann (Standlee), who married Chesley Sidwell. All are deceased, except Sarah Ann, who resides in Willits and was 90 years old on July 11, 1967. Murvin was educated in the Sawyers and Whitcomb schools, and at an early age united with the First Baptist Church, which his father served as Pastor. By vocation a farmer, he helped organize the Willits Farm Bureau, which still serves the community. For years he was a director of the Farm Bureau Credit Association, as well as trustee of the Willits School Board and trustee and deacon of his church. On January 2, 1898, his father, Rev. M. K. Sawyers, read the wedding vows for his marriage to Amelia "Millie" Josephine Bahn. Millie was born six miles east of Willits in Rock Tree Valley, on April 2, 1873 to Nancy Elizabeth (Hardwick) and Frederick Albert Bahn. To this union were born five children: Thelma Ethel, Othel Lee, Lloyd Mountjoy, James Harvey and Goldie Geraldine. All were born, raised, and received their elementary and high school education in Little Lake Valley. By 1940, Murvin and Millie welcomed retirement from the demands of farm life and moved into the City of Willits. Death came to Millie on March 16, 1946 and to Murvin on June 3, 1951. The eldest child, Thelma Ethel, born March 17, 1899, resides in Willits. She attended Sweets Business College in Santa Rosa, Calif., but wished to teach, so, later, attended Humboldt State College. In 1966, she retired from a career to which she had given most of her adult life, having taught in Willits schools 42 years. The second child, Othel Lee, was born June 24, 1902. After completing his schooling in Willits, moved to

Los Angeles, where he received his mechanical, electrical education at the National Automotive School. He then entered Sweets Business College in Santa Rosa, Calif. to secure a business administration course, which resulted in 37½ years with the Tidewater Oil Company at Avon, Calif. He married Holly Darrow and became the father of Josephine Ann (Roach) and Dana Lee (Price). Later, he wed Hortense Courade, and became the father of twin sons, Fred Othel and Lee Murvin. He had one step-son, Gerard Courade, eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild. The third child, Lloyd Mountjoy, born December 16, 1903 lives in Laytonville, Calif., with his wife Celia (Brasket). Celia, for years, has served the American Legion Auxilliary with distinction. Both have been active in civic and fraternal organizations in their community. Upon completion of his schooling, Lloyd has been employed in various phases of the lumber industry, throughout the county. He has seven children: Lucille Goldie (Davis), Lorin Ellis, Leland Murvin, (accidently killed August 8, 1948), Darla Jean (Lee), Lloyd Allen and Stanley David.. He, also, has eleven grandchildren. The fourth child, James Harvey, was born August 18, 1906. He attended the University of California School of Agriculture at Davis, and upon graduation, worked for the University of California at Davis, also, for the State Dept. of Agriculture and, later, operated a feed and fuel store in Woodland, Calif. Upon returning to Little Lake Valley in 1940, with his wife, Muriel (Irwin), he farmed the Sawyers ranch. Both have been active in civic, fraternal and farm organizations, including 4-H, as well as the First Baptist Church to which they belong. At present, Harvey is serving a 4th term as Mendocino County Supervisor in District Three. They have three children: Douglas, Warren Harvey, and Vernlyn Virginia (Farnsworth), and two grandchildren. The fifth child, Goldie Geraldine (Canepa) Walters, was born January 6, 1911, and is currently employed by the State of California in the City of San Francisco. Upon graduation from Willits schools, she attended a San Francisco business school, married and raised a son, John Victor Canepa, who has four children. The Sawyers family continues active in the affairs of Little Lake Valley, of the county, and of the State.

JAMES KNOX POLK SHELTON. With the coming of emigrants across the plains during the early '50s, attracted by the discovery of gold that formed a star in the destiny of California, there traveled a family from Missouri with an equipment of wagon and oxen, the necessary provisions for a journey of great length, and such other articles as were demanded by the presence of a goodly number of children. Among the latter was a boy of eight and one-half years, James K. Polk Shelton, whose birth had occurred at the home farm in Andrew county, Mo., October 15, 1844, and who entered into the adventures of the trip with the eagerness of childhood, unmindful of danger and ignorant of the possibility of attacks by Indians. The memory of that tedious journey lingers vividly in his mind, nor has he forgotten the general feeling of relief when September of 1853 found them at last in Petaluma, their journey's end. The father, William, a Missourian by birth, spent several years near Petaluma, but in June of 1857 drove through to Ukiah in search of government land available for farming purposes. Securing a claim of one and one-half miles south of Ukiah, he devoted years of arduous effort to the improving of the property and the erection of needed buildings. His last years were spent in retirement at Westport, where he died at the age of eighty-four. By his marri-

age to Isabelle Casteel, who was born in Ohio and died in San Luis Obispo county, he had nine children, of whom seven are living. The second in order of birth, James K. Polk Shelton had no educational advantages other than those made possible by an attendance of three months each year at subscription schools where the method of instruction was crude and the text-books inferior. Experience has been his principle teacher, and he has been so keen of comprehension that his fund of information surpasses that of many college graduates. At the age of twenty-two he left home and began to work as a farm hand. After his marriage to Miss Amanda Babcock, a native of Sonoma county, and a daughter of Richard Babcock, a California pioneer of 1856, he rented a farm and took up general ranch pursuits in his own interests. During 1890 he removed to a rented farm in Potter valley, where for fifteen years he engaged in raising stock and grain. On coming to Little Lake township in 1905 he bought nine hundred and twenty acres known as the Rock Tree ranch, and here he engaged in raising grain, hay and potatoes, besides keeping quite a bunch of stock on the property. In November 1913, having sold the ranch and stock he removed to Willits and bought a home on Flower street, where he has since resided. Local enterprises interest him, for he is public-spirited and progressive. In politics he always has been staunchly Democratic of sentiment. While not a member of any religious organization he is in sympathy with thier work and has contributed to the maintenance of the Baptist Church, with which his wife is identified. Of his eleven children, seven lived to mature years, namely: William Eddy, a farmer in Rock Tree valley; Mrs. Elizabeth Dickie, of Potter valley; Eugene, a stock raiser in Rock Tree valley; Jerry, who is married and makes his hom in Willits; and Leon, Agnes and Sammie, who still remain with their parents.

ALFRED E. SHERWOOD. This early pioneer of Mendocino county was born February 1, 1823, and was the son of Jonathan and Sarah Meiggs Sherwood. The place of his nativity was South Richland, Oswego county, New York. He remained at his birthplace till 1846, being trained as a farmer, and was educated in the common schools of the county and at the Mexico Academy. At the early age of nineteen he had attained proficiency enough to entitle him to the position of teacher in the district schools of his native county, which business he followed during the winter season. In 1845 he went to Racine county, Wisconsin, and settled at Kenosha, and began purchasing provisions, which he disposed of in the lumber regions. After following this for a year, he entered into a partnership with his brother at Manitowoc, and engaged in lumbering and merchandising, which they followed for four years. He then took up a place fourteen miles from the last-named town and began clearing up a farm where he resided till 1852. June 16th of that year he started overland to California, arriving in the State in September. He immediately began mining in Shasta county, which he followed for three months. He then went to the Consumnes river, where he remained till May, 1853. He then came to Noyo river, Mendocino county, and worked in building a mill for three months, and also bought a wrecked vessel known as the "Invincible." In the fall of that year he came into what is now known as Sherwood valley and built a house, and began farming and stock-raising. He has since remained at this place, and has now one thousand seven hundred and forty acres of fine land adapted for the purposes to which he puts it. He has the largest herd of Angora goats in

the county, there being seven hundred of them in his flock. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace in the county. Mr. Sherwood has passed through all the stages of frontier life, ranging from savage occupation of the forest to the civilized occupation, by white people, of smiling fields, yielding abundant harvests--all within a quarter of a century. June 26, 1870, he married Miss Nellie Coates, a native of Wisconsin, born August 23, 1847. They have no children.

OLE SIMONSON. As one of the successful ranchers in Mendocino county as well as an influential factor in many business and social enterprises, Mr. Simonson is well known throughout the length and breadth of the county, where he has made his home since 1865. Early recollections take him back in memory to the southern part of Norway, where he was born at Logndal July 12, 1838, the son of another Ole Simonson. Until he was seventeen years old he remained at home with his parents, attending school and working on the home farm as his school duties would permit, after which he began life for himself by taking a position as a school teacher. Finally, however, a desire for a broader outlook induced him to leave the homeland for the New World. In April, 1858, he sailed from Stavanger on the sailing vessel Elisa, which landed in Quebec with its burden of human freight about eight weeks from the time of starting. From Quebec Mr. Simonson made his way to Illinois, locating in Petersburg, Menard county, where he was fortunate in securing work as a farm hand. He continued farming in that locality until 1863, when he started to cross the plains and reached his destination about five months later. Temporary settlement was made at Santa Rosa, Sonoma county, but the following spring (1864) he went to Nevada to try his luck in the mines. An experience of four months sufficed to satisfy this ambition, and at the end of this time he again went to Sonoma county and worked on farms until 1865. It was in that year that he and his brother Zacharius joined their forces and rented farming land in Little Lake valley, Mendocino county. The venture proved so successful that four years later they purchased one hundred and sixty acres from William Buck. For several years the brothers continued in business together, carrying on general farming and stock-raising, but finally the partnership was dissolved, Zacharius Simonson disposing of his interest in the property to Upp and Whitehorn and later purchasing land in the southeastern part of the valley. Ole Simonson retained his half of the land purchased in partnership and devoted it to general farming and stock-raising. For over twenty years he has raised large quantities of potatoes. This commodity seems especially well adapted to this soil, four and five tons to the acre being an average crop, while seven tons to the acre have been grown. One season, when potatoes were scarce, he received two cents per pound for his product. In the meantime Mr. Simonson was steadily clearing his land for crops, and when this was done and he was free from debt he purchased four quarter sections of redwood timber land. In addition to this he purchased fifteen acres of fine pasture land adjoining his farm, and this ranch is now one of the best paying in the valley for its size. Since 1901 Mr. Simonson has been financially interested in the Muir & Irvine Lumber Company, manufacturers of lumber and dealers in general merchandise at Willits. Another enterprise which profited by his splendid business judgment was the Willits Hotel Company, a corporation which in 1903 erected a hotel of magnificent

proportions in Willits at a cost of \$45,000. With other enterprising citizens he assisted in organizing a county agricultural society in 1879, and for three years he served as president of the association. The grounds were disposed of in 1903 and are now used by the Willits Jockey Club as a race track. Besides the numerous interests already mentioned, Mr. Simonson holds stock and is a director in the Round Valley Commercial Company. With five others he organized and incorporated the Little Lake Valley Land Company, of which he is a director. This company bought three hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining Willits on the south, which has been subdivided into ten-acre tracts and nearly all are sold. He is also an incorporator of the Commercial Bank of Willits, of which his son, T. E., is a director. On March 2, 1871, Mr. Simonson's marriage united him with Miss Martha A. Sawyers, a native of Missouri and the daughter of Thomas Sawyers, who brought his family from that state to California in 1854 and later, in 1858, moved into Little Lake valley, Mendocino county. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Simonson five grew to years of maturity, as follows: Ida M., Mrs. Beard of Dos Rios; Margaret S., a teacher in the Willits school; Bergie F., Mrs. Luther Baechtel, of Willits; Thomas Edwin, who manages the home farm; and Mary M., who is also at home. In 1879 Mr. Simonson was elected supervisor and again in 1897, and for four years he was president of the Willits town board. While he is interested in public affairs he is not an adherent of any political party, giving his vote and influence to the candidate best fitted for the office in question. Personally Mr. Simonson is a man who thinks for himself and acts upon his convictions. While he possesses a worthy ambition to make and enjoy his share of the world's goods he has never trespassed upon the domain of others in the acquisition of his possessions.

ZACHARIAS SIMONSON. The honored title of pioneer belongs to Mr. Simonson, who dates his identification with Mendocino county from the year 1865 and who made the unusual record of owning and operating the same farm for a period of thirty-five years. It was not indeed until August of 1910 that he sold the old homestead three miles southeast of Willits and retired into the village to enjoy during his declining days the comforts made possible through his long devotion to farm pursuits. While working to improve his own ranch he has given of his best to aid in the upbuilding of Mendocino county. It has been his privilege to see many changes in this community. The humble hut of the pioneer has given place to the modern dwelling of convenience and comfort. At the time of his arrival Indians still lingered in the vicinity and although their depredations had been stopped through force of arms, the most dangerous being removed elsewhere, the white settlers were not wholly without fear of renewed hostility on their part. Out of such turbulent events order has been evolved and a high class of citizenship has been developed among the land-owners and permanent residents. Through all these years of growth he has been an interested observer of local progress and a constant contributor thereto. Although now laid aside from the heaviest of life's activities by reason of his age, he maintains the keen interest in local affairs that always characterized him and is as ready as ever to encourage projects for the public benefit or assist enterprises of value to his home town. A son of Ole Simonson a farmer at Hegebarstad, Logndal, Norway, Zacharias Simonson was born there March 24, 1833, and began to work on the home farm at such an early

age that he practically had no educational advantages whatever. Observation and experience have made him a well-informed man. When his time became his own at the age of twenty-one he left Norway and crossed the ocean to the United States. From 1854 to 1864 he was employed in Illinois, first at Springfield and later near Petersburg on a farm. Having decided to come to California, in 1864 he made the voyage via Panama and secured employment on a farm in Marin county. The year 1865 found him in Mendocino county, where he rented a farm in Little Lake Valley and in 1869 bought the ranch one-half mile north of Willits, where he remained until 1873, meanwhile engaging in the raising of grain and hay, cattle and hogs. When he sold the property in 1873 he bought the ranch of three hundred acres three miles southeast of Willits, where he carried on general farming for thirty-five years. When the Baptist Church was organized at Willits, he became a charter member and both he and his wife are still active in its missionary and general benevolences. In political belief as well as in principal he is a Prohibitionist, strongly opposed to the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. At the time of coming to Mendocino county he was unmarried. Domestic ties were established with his marriage at Willits, September 10, 1868, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Gibson, a native of Stockton, Cal., but after 1858 a resident of Mendocino county, where she attended the public schools in Little Lake valley. Her father, Miles Gibson, a Virginian by birth and ancestry, crossed the plains with an ox-team and wagon in 1853 and settled at Stockton, but in 1858 removed to the northern part of the state and took up land in Little Lake valley. From that time until his death he engaged in farming. Seven children were born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Simonson, namely: 'Mrs. Imma J. Henich, who died at Bremerton, Wash.; Mrs. Tilda M. Case, of Healdsburg; Ole Martin, a farmer near Willits; Annie Helen, Mrs. Learch, of Vallejo; Mrs. Lola Elizabeth Carner, of Willits; Minnie Belle, who died at nine months; and William Graves, an employe of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad at Willits.

MICHAEL A. SINGLETON. Conspicuous among the self-made men of Mendocino county who, by their own energetic efforts, have arisen from a condition of comparative poverty to a position of influence and affluence, is Michael A. Singleton of Willits. As proprietor of the Diamond "S" livery, feed and sale stable, located on Main Street, opposite the Palace hotel, he is carrying on a substantial business, having an extensive and lucrative patronage. For four years he rendered efficient service as deputy sheriff, and during that time was instrumental in obtaining the arrest and conviction of many notable criminals, winning for himself a record that will not soon be forgotten. The son of a farmer, he was born March 12, 1859, in Louisville, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., the home of his parents, Peter and Ellen (McCarthy) Singleton. Growing up in his native town, and obtaining his education in the common schools, he remained at home until twenty years of age. Then, animated by the ambitious enterprise natural to the boys of eastern blood and brain, and mindful of the advice given by Horace Greeley, he went west. Spending two years in the lumber camps of Wisconsin, he accumulated a small capital with which he started in the livery business at Fifiield, Wis., and subsequently established a stage route to Lake Flambeau. After four years of success, Mr. Singleton suddenly met with reverses, all of his destructible property being consumed by fire, and all he had left consisted of a few town lots.

Selling these, he sought new fields of action. Settling in Waupaca county, Wis., he was there engaged in the stock business two years, when he removed to Utah, where he was employed as foreman in the building of a portion of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway. From 1892 until 1899 he assisted in the building of railroads in Oregon as a contractor. Tiring of that work, Mr. Singleton located in Mendocino county in 1899, where he purchased the Riverside hotel, located at Riverside way station, between Ukiah and Willits, and managed that until October, 1901, in connection with it running a passenger wagon to Ukiah every day. Selling his hotel, Mr. Singleton purchased of Henry Smith his interest in the livery stable that the firm of Smith & Taylor had built at Willits in December, 1901. Subsequently buying out the interest of the junior member of the firm, C. L. Taylor, he has since carried on the business alone. He keeps twenty fine driving horses and has the best of turnouts in his stable, besides which he keeps five teams of draft horses busily employed in hauling for the Diamond D Lumber Company. He is continually enlarging his operations, dealing extensively in horses. From 1899 until 1903, Mr. Singleton was deputy sheriff, and as that was a period of memorable stage robberies and daring hold-ups, he had an opportunity of showing his untiring ability and unflinching nerve in a number of clever arrests that he made. He is foreman, and a charter member of Willits Fire Company, No. 1, and though a stout, fleshy man, he has proved himself as active and supple as any of his comrades in the department. Fraternally he was a charter member of the Independent Order of Red Men, of Willits, and when that organization disbanded he joined the Ukiah Lodge, I.O.R.M.; he also belongs to the Order of Eagles of Ukiah, being a charter member.

GEORGE ARTHUR SMART. Continuous identification with Little Lake Valley since 1887 entitles Mr. Smart to be termed a pioneer of this fertile portion of Mendocino county, where after a long connection with agricultural interests he became a stockholder from the organization of the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company, and has been associated with the concern ever since in the capacity of superintendent of the lumber yards and planing mill. The lumber enterprise has assumed vast magnitude in this section of the state. Great forests have furnished some of the finest quality of lumber shipped along the Pacific coast. It has been the privilege of Mr. Smart to assist in the development of one of the well-known companies having to do with this business, while at the same time he has never lost his interest in agriculture as an occupation of great promise in the county and besides still owning a part of his original ranch. He has been from its organization the president and a stockholder in the Little Lake Land Company, an important combination of capital formed by local men. Foreseeing the value of the region from an horticultural standpoint, the company has bought large tracts of land, divided the same into ten-acre tracts, and is now selling the acreage to settlers for intensified farming, principally orchards. He is one of the organizers and a director in the Commercial Bank of Willits. In the early days, before railroads had been built into Iowa, David and Sarah (Glenn) Smart, who were born, reared and married in Indiana, removed by wagon to the vicinity of Des Moines and took up a tract of raw land. Later during a visit back at the old Indiana home in Glenn's valley, Marion county, near the city of Indianapolis, their son, George Arthur, was born October 29, 1857. A few years later at

the opening of the Civil war the father enlisted as a private in an Iowa regiment. From the ranks he rose to be captain of his company, and as such received an honorable discharge at the close of the war. While he was at the front his wife and three children left Iowa for Indiana to make a prolonged sojourn with relatives. An epidemic of typhoid fever occurred in the neighborhood and caused the death of Mrs. Smart and two of the children, so that George Arthur was left the sole survivor of the family to welcome his father on the latter's return from the army. Father and son went back to Iowa and settled on a farm, whence in 1886 the former removed to California; he is now living in Oakland. Educated primarily in Iowa public schools, George Arthur Smart completed his studies in an academy at Dryden, N. Y., and then taught several terms of school in Iowa. Later he engaged in farming in Vernon county, Mo. From that state in 1887 he came to California and settled in Mendocino county, where he bought a ranch two miles from Willits in Little Lake valley. This tract he operated until 1902, when he removed into town for the purpose of engaging in the lumber business with the Irvine & Muir Lumber Company. The residence which he erected on Wood street is presided over by Mrs. Smart, who was Miss Harriet Shively, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, and a daughter of Michael and Sarah Shively, at one time farmers near Nevada, Mo., but later residents of Kenwood, Sonoma county, Cal. Two daughters were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Smart, namely: Una Glenn, who married J. J. Keller of Willits, and has one son, Richard David; and Leta Lucile, Mrs. Noonan of Willits, the mother of one son, Roney Arthur Noonan. Mr. and Mrs. Smart as well as their daughters are identified with the Rebekah Lodge in Willits, and he is also prominent in Little Lake Lodge No. 277, I. O. O. F., in which he is past noble, past representative and past district deputy. The local camp, Woodmen of the World, numbers him among its past officers. While yet in Iowa he was made a Mason in Delta Lodge No. 365, F. & A. M., at Dallas Center, of which his father was master at this time; since coming to Mendocino county he has been connected with Willits Lodge No. 365, F. & A. M. The Republican party has had his ballot in local and general elections ever since he attained his majority, but at no time has he sought office or cared to accept the positions of trust that might have been tendered him, for while well-posted in public affairs his interests center in business rather than in politics.

EDGAR FRANKLIN SWORTFIGUER. One of the leading lights of the northern California bar, is at this time a resident of the little town of Willits, in Mendocino county, where he has been in active practice for the past twelve or thirteen years. Mr. Swortfiguer was for many years aswell known lawyer of San Francisco, and after accumulating a considerable fortune retired to a country life, opening up a town office and dividing his time between that and his country home. As time passed he became more and more closely identified with the life of the place, until he is to-day recognized as a leader in business and professional circles. Edgar F. Swortfiguer is the son of George and Mary (Babcock) Swortfiguer, residents of Schenectady, N. Y. where he was born August 3, 1852. He attended Union College, graduating with the class of 1872. Four years later he was admitted to practice in the supreme court of the state of California, upon examination before the court, and opened an office in San Francisco, where he entered upon the active

practice of his profession, and from an unknown, struggling young attorney, fought his way to a position of pre-eminence among the legal fraternity. In 1892 he decided to retire from the more active practice of the law and engage in fruit raising. His choice of locality fell upon a farm a short distance north of Willits, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, where he has ever since resided and has converted the same into an ideal home, one of the handsomest places to be found in this section. Here the family make their home, Mr. Swortfiguer driving into town to attend to his legal duties. Few men have done more towards opening the country to settlers than has Mr. Swortfiguer in the time he has been a resident of this place. He was one of the men who composed the California Land and Fruit Company, whose object was the testing of different fruits which could be raised in this section and inducing people to come here to locate. He was a director and held the office of secretary of the company. They bought two thousand acres of land, the larger portion of it being located in the center and eastern part of Little Lake valley. On this land they set out sixty-five acres of prunes, one hundred and twenty-five acres of apples and several acres of pears and other fruit, hiring expert orchardists to care for the trees. The experiment has proved that owing to the late frosts pears and other kindred fruits do not thrive well, but apples are better adapted to the peculiar climatic conditions and yield a good harvest. Mr. Swortfiguer is a firm friend of education, and some years ago was instrumental in establishing the Hawley school district, which adjoins his ranch. Since its organization he has been on the board of trustees. Other offices which he has held are member of the county board of trade, a trustee and member of the executive committee of the town board, quarantine officer, and for many years game warden. Personally he is genial and kindly disposed, broad-minded in his views and wide-awake to the best interests of his own community. He has come prominently before the public during his residence here, and occupies an enviable place in the esteem of all who know him, either in a public or private capacity.

L. C. TUTTLE. Was born in Rockport, New York, April 29, 1837. When he was about four years of age his parents moved to Illinois, settling in Plainfield, Will county. He received his education in the common schools and academies of that county. He has also learned the carpenter's trade. In April, 1862, he with his wife started across the plains to California, and arrived in the Sacramento valley, October 11th of that year. He worked at his trade a short time when he went to farming on the Consumnes river. He then came to Mendocino county in March, 1865, he settled on his present place, consisting of five hundred and forty acres, where he is engaged in sheep and stock-raising. In company with C. Bratt, he owns four thousand acres of pasture land and over six thousand head of sheep in Humboldt county. In 1867, he was appointed postmaster at the Sherwood Valley office, being the first person to serve at that place. He married Miss R. Leah, May 29, 1860, a native of New York, born August 17, 1837. They have one child, Frederick, born February 18, 1863.

GEORGE W. UPP. The pioneer blacksmith shop at Willits now owned and operated by George W. Upp forms one of the interesting landmarks of the village and was established in a very early day by Hiram Willits, in whose honor the village was named. As an appren-

tice in the old shop, then owned by Jake Dobkins, Mr. Upp learned the trade, having left the ranch at the age of eighteen in order to take up work at the trade. All of his previous life had been passed on the farm in the valley near Willits, where he was born, reared and educated, and where his people had been leading pioneers. From this place he went to Ukiah and for four years worked in the shop of Dobkins & Charlton. Upon his return to Willits he formed a partnership with Frank Vincent and embarked in blacksmithing under the firm name of Upp & Vincent. Selling his interest to Mr. Vincent November 3, 1890, he returned and purchased the old blacksmith shop established by Mr. Willits, where he had learned the trade and where for years he has been engaged continuously at the trade as the proprietor of the shop. During early manhood he married Miss Sarah C. Davidson, daughter of Allen Davidson, a pioneer stock-raiser of Mendocino county. In fraternal matters he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while Mrs. Upp is a member of the Rebekahs.

PHILIP UPP. The identification of the Upp family with Mendocino county from June, 1858, entitles them to be classed among the very earliest settlers of the county, while to the eldest daughter of the family, Sarah A., was given the distinction of being the first white child born in Little Lake township. The head of the family, Philip Upp, was born in York county, Pa., March 21, 1827, being a son of John J. and Barbara (lower) Upp. Upon starting out for himself he went to St. Louis, Mo., in October, 1849, and found employment at his trade of carpenter. March 23, 1856, at Lewiston, Mifflin county, Pa., he married Miss Susan Hawker, a native of Pennsylvania and their wedding journey consisted of a trip to California. Embarking on the steamer Orizaba, April 6, 1856, they had an uneventful voyage to Nicaragua, but encountered numerous troubles there by reason of the progress of the Walker filibustering expedition. Only the protection of General Walker himself and of the American consul saved them from annoyances that might have developed into dangers. As passengers on the Steamer Sierra Nevada they anchored at San Francisco June 8, 1856. The following day they sailed up the river to Sacramento. Near the North fork of the American river Mr. Upp secured work as operator of a threshing machine. Next he proceeded to Sonoma county and took up land five miles from Petaluma, whence in June, 1858, he came to Mendocino county, establishing a farm home near Willits. For some years he followed different lines of work in California and Washington, but in January, 1865, he returned to Willits permanently and in June of the same year formed a partnership with Archie Whitehorn in the ranching and stock-raising business. For a number of years they owned and operated a stock farm of nineteen hundred and twenty acres and ranked among the most extensive stockmen of the valley. In his family there were six children: Sarah A., Mrs. Davis, deceased; George W., a blacksmith in Willits; Mary F., Mrs. Shimm, and Ida, Mrs. Smith, both of Paso Robles; Archie, who was accidentally killed by the fall of lumber in June, 1910; and Eddie, who with his wife and child, was accidentally killed by a train while crossing the N. W. P. R. R. tracks August 26, 1912.

MRS. NANCY MARIA VINCENT. So much of her life has been passed in California that Mrs. Vincent does not retain definite and positive recollections of her native county of Atchison in Missouri. However, she vividly recalls the excitement incident to the trip

across the plains during the summer of 1852, when she was six years of age. The long days on the trail, the lonely nights by the camp fire, the precautions taken to avoid attacks from the savages, the frequent proximity of the Indians and the occasional loss of stock through their depredations, these left an indelible impression upon the plastic mind of the child. The captain of the expedition was her father, William Southard, a Virginian possessing the fearlessness and tact that qualified him for leadership of such an undertaking. Accompanying him were his children and his wife, the latter, Jane (Moore) Southard, also a Virginian by birth and ancestry. There were twelve children in the family, but only four of these are now living. Among the younger members of the family circle was the one who, as a child of six, saw for the first time the wide expanse of the trackless desert, the broad ranges of lofty mountains and the great stretch of uninhabited plains. Eventually arriving at the bay, she remembers the little settlement of Oak Grove occupying the present site of Oakland. On every hand were indications of the cosmopolitan nature of the population. The latest news from the gold fields was still the principal theme of conversations, although several years had elapsed since the first momentous discovery. Incoming vessels were bringing gold-seekers from every part of the world. Everything was of interest to the small child whose previous outlook had been bounded by an Iowa homestead. After a brief sojourn in the Taylor valley, Captain Southard took his family to the Moraga valley in Contra Costa county, where he took up land and developed a farm. It was not until 1870 that he left Contra Costa county and came to Mendocino county, where both he and his wife died in Little Lake valley. At the same time came their daughter, Nancy Maria Vincent, whose marriage to Frank Vincent had been solemnized at Lafayette, Contra Costa county, in 1866. A skilled mechanic familiar with five different trades, Mr. Vincent, who was a West Virginian by birth, engaged principally in blacksmithing and wagon-making, and after coming to Little Lake valley, built a blacksmith shop on the present site of the Willits postoffice. In addition to following the trade he carried on an undertaking business with the assistance of his wife. Up to the time of his death in 1895 he served as a deacon in the Baptist Church, and his wife is now officiating as a deaconess in the same congregation. Fraternally he held membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and in politics he voted with the Democratic party. After his death Mrs. Vincent continued the undertaking business for eight years, when the building was destroyed by fire. Later she erected on the same site a brick structure that for many years has been utilized for the postoffice. She also owns a one hundred and sixty acre ranch four miles north of Willits, on the outlet, used for a wood ranch. Since her retirement from business she has continued to make her home on Mendocino street and finds abundant outlet for her energies in the management of her property interests and in the society of her children. One of her daughters, Mamie, died at the age of twenty-two years; the three still living, as well as the only son, continue to make their home in Willits as follows: Dollie E., wife of Charles Whited, Mrs. Heloise McWilliams, Mrs. Nora Osborne and Charles Franklin Vincent, a newspaper man by occupation.

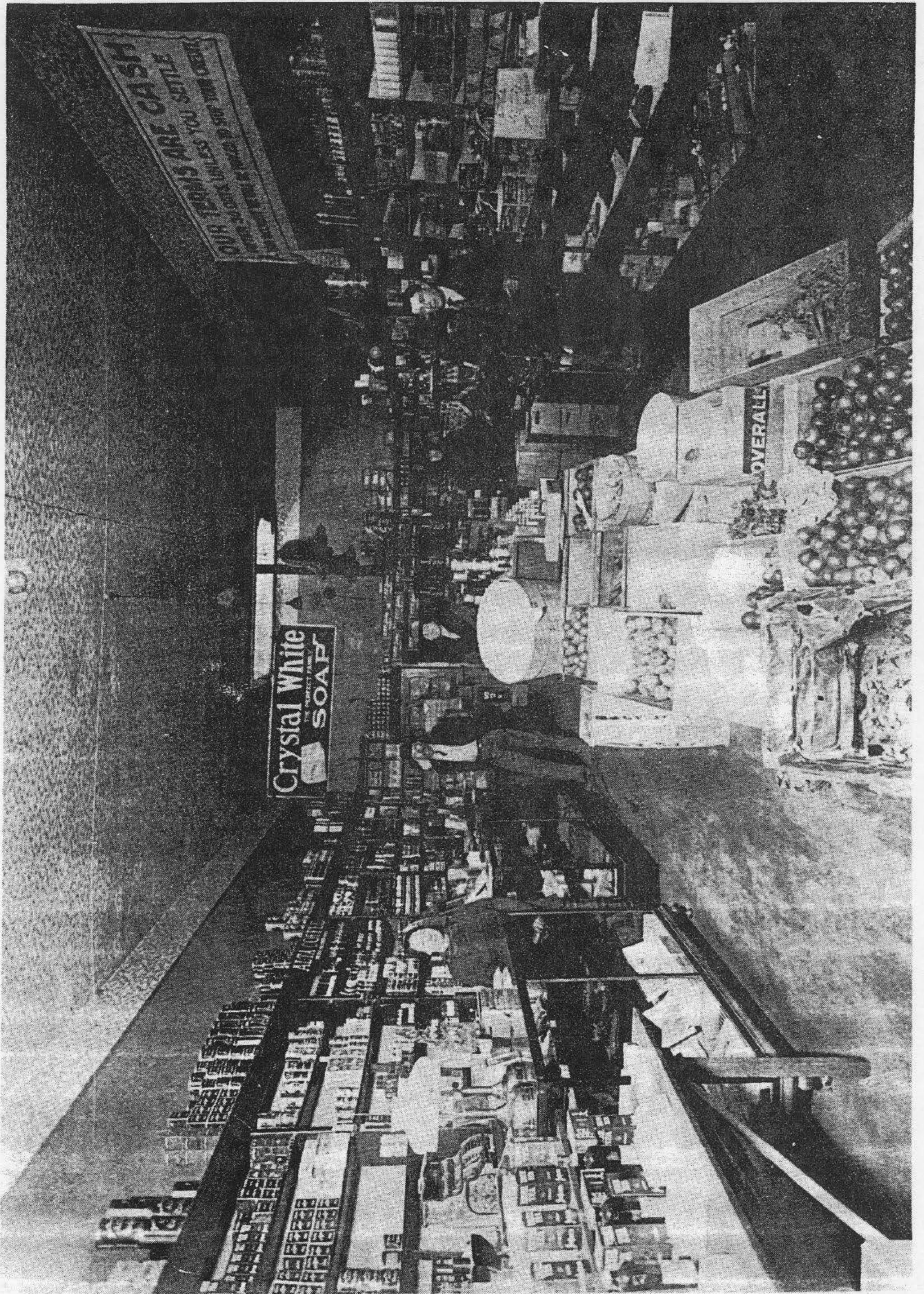
WILLIAM WEIGAND. The proprietor of Hotel Willits, who ranks among the leading landlords of Mendocino county and is an active member of the California Hotel Men's Association, has engaged in the hotel

business from early life, meanwhile acquiring an experience and familiarity with details that gives efficiency to his present management and a high degree of success in return for his labors. Although a native of Pennsylvania, born in the city of Philadelphia, December 11, 1867, from the age of three years until about twenty he lived at Oppenheim on the Rhine in Germany. His father, Philip, who was born at Dahlheim, Hessen Darmstadt, spent a considerable time in Philadelphia where he was among the first fire brick manufacturers in that city. In 1870 he took his family to Germany and there remained until death. Four of the brothers in the family enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil war and three of them perished on fields of battle during that great struggle. Returning to the United States in 1887, William Weigand settled in Boston, Mass., and embarked in the hotel and catering business. Three years later he removed from Boston to Minneapolis and became interested in the same line of business. For a considerable period of years he conducted an enterprise with fair profit. The year 1898 found him in California. He located at Windsor, Sonoma county, and became proprietor of the New Western hotel until the railroad was completed to Willits, when he assumed management of the Hotel Willits. After a year he left to engage in business for himself, but at the expiration of eighteen months he again leased the Hotel Willits, of which he since has been the popular proprietor. This is not only the largest hotel in the county, but claims distinction as being without a superior in the matter of equipment and accommodations and was also the first to establish a dining room a la carte. The lobby of the hotel has been made attractive with a substantial maple floor, a large fireplace and neat furnishings. The Eagle cafe and restaurant are owned by Mr. Weigand, who is also the owner of the building in which the cafe is conducted. Through his marriage in Minneapolis to Miss Mary Oversett, a native of Risfjorden, Norway, Mr. Weigand gained a thoroughly competent helpmate, who is now giving personal attention to the management of the Hacienda hotel of seventy-three rooms, located at No. 580 O'Farrell street. The Hotel Willits, which Mr. Weigand purchased in November, 1913, and annex include ninety-five large rooms, comfortably furnished equipped with modern conveniences. In addition he is the owner of the old Quass ranch, which he uses for a summer home and which is situated six and one-half miles north of town. At no time has he been active in politics and his interest in public affairs is limited to the casting of a Republican ballot at national elections. Fraternally he holds membership with the Sons of Hermann, the Aerie of Eagles at Willits, and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Santa Rosa.

CHARLES WHITED. The postmaster at Willits, who was appointed to the office May 20, 1913, by President Wilson, taking the office July 11, 1913, ranks among the leading citizens of the valley and for years has been a leading factor in local public affairs, served as town trustee for four years and also filling the office of town clerk with recognized fidelity and intelligence for eight years. Practically all of his life has been passed in Mendocino county, for, although a native of Iowa, having been born near Burlington, he was only two years of age when in 1869 his parents, Joseph and Mary (short) Whited, came to California and selected for a permanent location the valley where subsequent years of energetic and business-like application deservedly have given them a high standing among pioneer families. Under the careful train-

ing of the father, who was the pioneer builder in Willits and rose from day work as a carpenter to the taking of important contracts, the sons, Charles and L. R. were instructed in every detail connected with the trade, so that in their present partnership as builders they are enabled to fill contracts with the most scrupulous exactness and devotion to detail. One of their recent important contracts has been that for the completion of eight miles of state highway north of Ukiah, a large enterprise in which they had D. L. Sawyer as an associate. In addition they have been awarded contracts for the building of many concrete bridges in the county, as well as the contracts for all of the houses erected at the plant of the Irvine-Muir Lumber Company. From the age of sixteen years, Charles Whited largely has devoted his time to the building business, although also in early life he taught school for a short time, operated a threshing machine and a sawmill and engaged in ranching in the valley. After some time given to ranching, he erected the Palace hotel, now the Central, on Main street and served as proprietor of the same for ten years, meanwhile rebuilding it after it had been destroyed by fire. A goodly number of the houses and business buildings in Willits stand as monuments to his efficiency as a carpenter and he is still active in this line of work. Those who once have engaged his services retain thereafter a high opinion of his skill in the building business. By his marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Vincent, daughter of Frank Vincent, a pioneer blacksmith of the valley, he has one son, Carl, a graduate of the Willits high school and now an assistant in the Willits post-office.

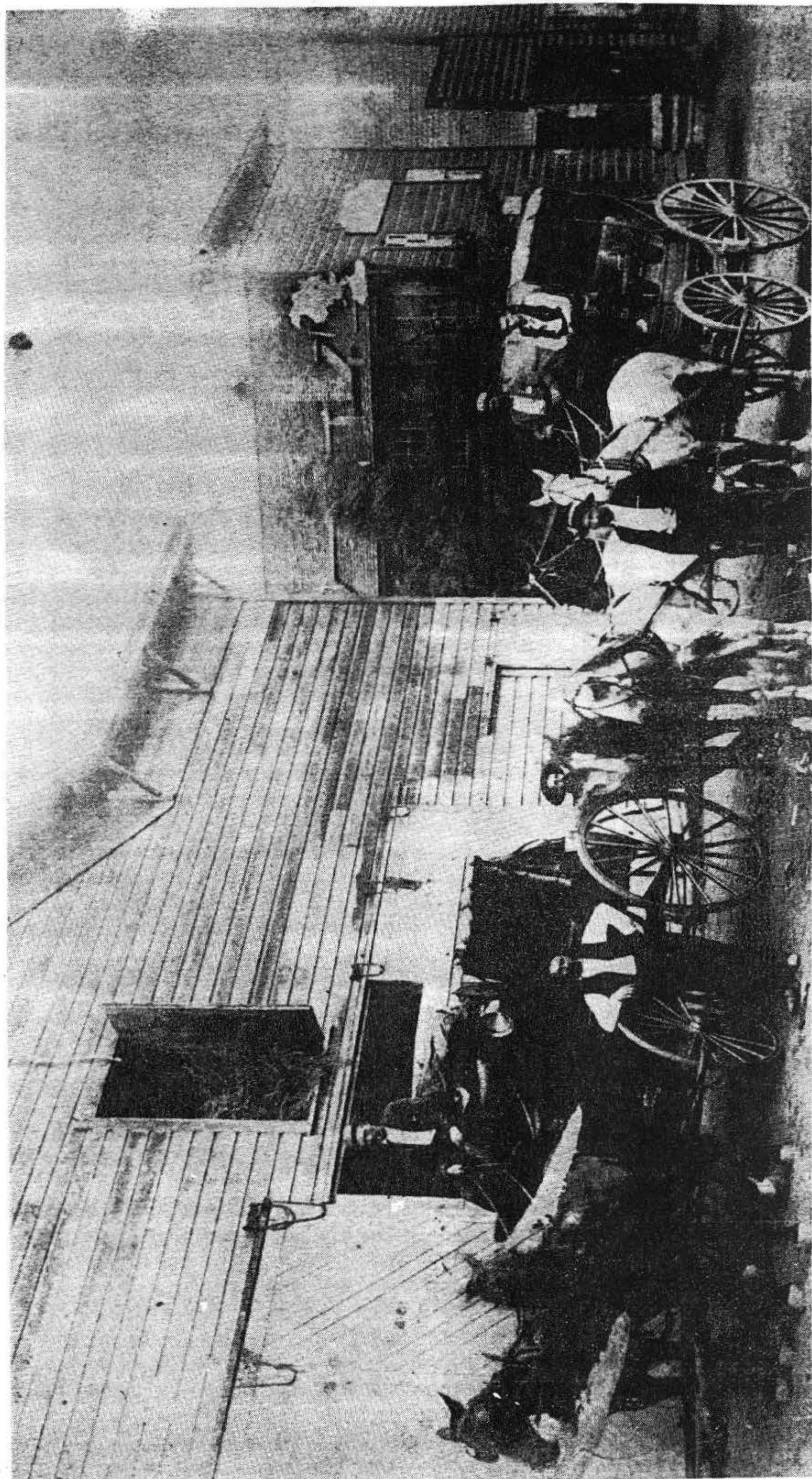
LE ROY WHITED. By reason of being a native son of California and of Mendocino county Mr. Whited is thoroughly familiar with this section of the state and believes in the possibilities of Little Lake valley and Willits, for he has spent his life here and understands the soil, climate, resources and other advantages offered to permanent settlers of energy and character. The family of which he is a member belongs to the pioneer class, although not identified with the earliest American occupancy of the state. His parents, Joseph and Mary (Short) Whited, natives respectively of Illinois and Indiana, were married in the former state and in 1869 came to California, buying the first through tickets to the west that were sold in their town after the completion of the trans-continental railroad. Upon their arrival in Mendocino county they bought land in Little Lake valley near Willits and there continued in farming activities throughout their remaining years. The father was one of thirteen children of Doc Henderson Whited and it is worthy of mention that all but one of this large family eventually settled in California, the majority coming here in early life and during the pioneer period of colonization. Among eight children, five of whom are still living, LeRoy Whited was the fifth in order of birth. In boyhood he was a pupil in the Willits public schools. Taught at home to make himself useful in every department of agriculture, he was especially helpful to his father in the operation of a steam threshing machine which the latter owned for thirteen years. In young manhood he learned the trade of carpenter, from which he drifted into contracting. Since then he has built a large number of houses besides concrete bridges and roads, and has done subcontracting on the Northwestern Pacific Railroad. The contract for seven miles of the state highway in Mendocino county was given to him and he filled the same with skill, effec-



iciency and promptness. In the vicinity of Willits he has done a large business in contracting, furnishing plans and building, and stands in the forefront of his special line of enterprise. In politics he votes with the Republican party and fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen of the World. His family comprises his only child, Geneva, and Mrs. Whited, formerly Miss Grace Taylor, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of P.H. Taylor. Mrs. Whited is a woman of social charm and popularity and has been an active worker in the Rebekahs and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

HIRAM WILLITS. The founder of Willits, who must ever remain one of the notably interesting personalities of a departed era in Mendocino county, was the oldest child of Robert and Sarah (Beard) Willits, and was born on a farm in Wayne county, Ind., February 5, 1821. In September, 1842, when he was twenty-one years old, he accompanied his parents to Van Buren county, Iowa, and two years later, March 13, 1844, married Margaret J. Johnson, daughter of William and Nancy (Crane) Johnson, and a sister of the present marshal of Willits. April 1, 1850, Hiram Willits and his wife started across the plains in the direction of California, arriving in Hangtown, now Placerville, August 17, 1850. Mr. Willis saw the need of additional mercantile resources for the settlers, and at Rough and Ready opened a store and hotel, which flourished only for about six months. Hoping for better results from the soil of the west, he went to Colusa county and took up a claim of fair dimensions, engaged in farming and stock-raising and at the same time opening a public house. Disposing of the varied interests in August, 1857, he came to Mendocino county and secured eight hundred and seven acres of land in the center of Little Lake valley and began to improve his land, most of which was in a wild state. At the present time the first house that he built, as well as the second, and the accompanying barns, are still standing north of the Hotel Willits. In 1865, when Kirk Brier came and opened a store on the land, it was one of the finest properties in the country, the handiwork of the settler being apparent in every department, and a corresponding amount of gold rewarding his toil. Soon afterward James M. Jones started up a little blacksmith shop on land leased him by Mr. Willits, and the store and the shop together made quite a trading post. Mr. Willits himself, more far-sighted than either the storekeeper or blacksmith, saw in embryo a thrifty little town, towards the upbuilding of which he intended to devote his best energies. Gradually he began to sell off town lots from his farm, and as settlers began to arrive the store and blacksmith had about all the patronage they could attend to. Naturally the hamlet took on the name of its founder, and Willitsville showed up large on the guide to Mendocino county. Mr. Willits finally bought out Mr. Brier, ran the store himself for several years, and finally substituted a fine new brick store, for the ancient and altogether too small wooden structure. The brick for the same was made near by, and that it was of superior brand is acknowledged, for the seat of commercial enterprise is still a landmark, and a well preserved one at that, at present being owned by Irvine & Muir. In the meantime Mr. Willits has, by no means confined his energies to commercialism and agriculture, but as became a broad-minded and enterprising citizen, interested himself in politics and all-around improvements. He had the instincts of the organizer, promoter and upbuilder, and his advice upon all of these phases of development was always sound and practical. He was appointed first postmaster

of the town in 1860, holding the office for many years. One of his most notable contributions to the stability of the county was his effort in connection with the organization of the Mendocino Agricultural Association, in which he was treasurer for many years, and which did much towards the establishment of agricultural and stock-raising prestige for this county. There were few enterprises which did not profit in some manner by his financial acumen and shrewd common sense, for, having broken the wild sod of the farm he persevered until his feet trod with confidence the halls of her solid and developing enterprises. The fine water supply, electric lights, sanitary sewerage and, most wonderful of all, the railroad all developed before his expectant and enthusiastic eyes and received in their coming his earnest and helpful sanction. Mr. Willits was an extensive raiser of high-grade horses, and during his life sold some of the fastest race horses on the coast. Such well known members of equine aristocracy as Cyclone, Ironwood, Captain Jack, Jennie Mack, Leatherwood and Gussie S. emanated from his pastures, and his name was known from one end of the state to the other as a most successful breeder of high-grade trotters. Liberal in his religious views, he gave his support to a number of denominations, viewing them impartially as far as his own association with them was concerned. His death in 1892 removed one of the most noble as well as prominent men of this county, and one whose fine and enviable traits of character endeared him to a host of friends. The wife who survived him until 1902 was a fitting mate in his struggle for supremacy, and in all ways seconded his worthy and substantial efforts. When the railroad company desired to make a terminus here providing they could secure the land, she offered all of her property for the purpose at a very reasonable figure, realizing fully just what it meant towards the upbuilding of the town. This self-sacrificing step on the part of the wife of the founder of Willits forever endeared her to a community already lost in admiration of her charitable and beautiful nature. After her farm had been disposed of she built a beautiful home on a rise of ground on the corner of Wood and School streets, over-looking the town and commanding a beautiful view of the distant mountains. Thus are the founders of Willits enshrined in the memory of a grateful posterity and rank with the noble hewers of civilization in this far western country. Few have exceeded them in far-sightedness and helpfulness, and certainly none wore more gracefully and sincerely the mantle of truth and humanity.



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BIOGRAPHIES

HISTORY OF MENDOCINO COUNTY (1880)

Martin Baechtel	Benjamin Dougherty
James Lafayette Broaddus	William Fulwider
Benjamin Burns	Mountjoy Sawyers
Abner Coates	Murvin Lee Sawyers
William F. Davis	Alfred E. Sherwood
George A. Decker	L. C. Tuttle

COAST COUNTIES HISTORY, 1904

Edwin F. DeCamp, Sr.	Horace D. Rowe
Thomas B. Johnson	Michael A. Singleton
Edgar Franklin Swortfiguer	

HISTORY OF MENDOCINO & LAKE COUNTIES, 1914

Gordon Baechtel	George Calvin Lewis
Luther S. Baechtel	William Lewis
Samuel Baechtel	John Lind
Belio & Allue	Fred N. Loring
Stephen K. Bittenbender	Harry Lincoln McElroy
John A. Blosser	Eugene McPeak
Daniel J. Blosser	Stephen Byron Martin
J. Tobias Blosser	Henry B. Muir
Jacob Blosser	Ira Ordway
Frederick Hugh Camp D.D.S.	Francisco Persico
Dabney Liner Cox	Giovanni Quarteroni
Allen Davidson	James Buchanan Rogers
Robert James Dryden	John Matthews Rowe
Jesse C. Duffield	David Leander Sawyers
Ralph Thompson Duncan	James Knox Polk Shelton
James Edwards	Ole Simonson
Mrs. Rosa D. Exley	Zacharias Simonson
Silas Barron Farnsworth	George Arthur Smart
Prof. Roy Good	George W. Upp
Parker L. Hall	Philip Upp
Chris Hansen	Mrs. Nancy Maria Vincent
Edwin Y. Himmelwright	William Weigand
Jesse Heyward	Charles Whited
Laurence Clay Hopper	LeRoy Whited
Charles A. Irvine	Hiram Willits